WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 21, No. 9 | SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990 | January 2011

Local family faces deportation

Interview from WIP News Service

The following is an interview of Zahid and Ann Chaudhry, a local couple facing deportation proceedings in January. An extended version of this interview is available at www.olywip.org.

If I could start at the very beginning, how did you come to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Zahid: Well, I used to come here quite often, sometimes twice a year, in summer and winter. Mostly I used to spend my summers here with my cousin, uncle and aunt in Washington. My uncle was a professor and scientist at Central Washington University, and he used to have his summers off. (And my uncle is not just an uncle – he's a close buddy.) So we used to hang out all summer long, and travel all around Washington, Oregon, Idaho and B.C. And then, on my last trip like that here over a decade ago, I fell in love with my dear friend – I still call her "dear friend" and she's my wife, but you have to be good, close friends before you can be a good spouse. And then the rest is history.

In early 2001 a recruiter started talking to me, and said "National Guard is different from the Army." And indeed, before 9/11, it was very different. It was only there for stateside emergencies like fires, floods, landslides, & earthquakes. And you serve your state, mostly. Of course now, it is very different. Nine, ten years later, it is very different from what it used to be and what its original intended purpose was. Since I love to serve, and my motto in life is "love and serve all humanity". So I said, "Yes, let's do that." As you can see, that's why I joined.

And weren't you also a volunteer fire fighter?

Zahid: Yes, I was Ready Reserve for Yakima Fire Department. I used to carry a pager 24/7 for years, and that pager went off a lot. If you look at the stats for the whole state, Yakima has a lot of fires in winter, because poor people are trying to heat their homes with older kinds of stoves, with wood and that, and in older homes. The Fire Department was advertising, asking for help, and I said "Well that sounds good. Where do I sign up?" And I did, and I loved it. I used to respond to fire emergencies– sometimes three fires a night in the winter. And it's extremely cold – bitter, unforgiving winter in Eastern Washington. But you gotta do what you gotta do to help out your fellow firemen & human beings.

Whether it was protests and attacks in mosques, old political candidates using fear-mongering to score election victories, we have seen an uptick in hate and hate violence.

But I loved helping out. And the families, whose homes are burned, of course you help them out, you try to calm them, help them any way you can – give them water, give them blankets, and all of the stuff. It's basic humanity, which is in all of us, to help and love each other and support each other when times are difficult.

When did you first apply for U.S. citizenship?

Zahid: That's interesting you ask that. First, I applied two times in 2003, and INS said they lost my application. Of course, they didn't lose the filing fees. They cashed that.

Yes, so two were lost, and we filed again in late 2003 / early 2004, and they received it in March, and they said "Okay, we'll start the processing date from April 1, 2004." Because it was not N400, it was military N400, it should have been expedited, and it has special privileges, which I have yet to see for me.

Now, your average reader might assume military service under honorable conditions would* guarantee *citizenship.

Zahid: Yes, and in that regard, the U.S. is not alone. Nearly every country has some sort of law or preferential treatment for their veterans for citizenship. Whether it be on the books or not on the books, they all have that. Not only that, next month will be our 10 year anniversary.

Congratulations!

Zahid: Thank you. Married for 10 years. And I am eligible for applying on that basis as well.

Ann: He qualifies for citizenship based on "married to US citizen".

Zahid: We have two children, and four grandchildren, and a family. And my uncle was invited by the government 27 years ago as a scientist. And my family has lived here for that long.

Ann: He qualifies under that (family ties) basis also.

Zahid: Family ties.

But then, if you qualify under all these basis, and you served under honorable conditions, and if that guarantees citizenship, then … What's the hold up?

Zahid: Exactly.

Obviously, you probably don't have an explanation.

Zahid: I don't, I don't. People ask me, and I say "The answer is blowing in the wind."

Where did your problems with immigration start?

▸ **DEPORTATION,** continued on page 9

WikiLeaks

The month that changed the war on information

by Wally Cuddeford

On a cold night in 1971, a group known only as the "Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI" drove up to the FBI field office in Media, Pennsylvania, broke in, wheeled every last file cabinet into their trucks, and drove off into the night. Over the next several months, the documents (over 1000 of them) were anonymously mailed out to major press organizations, and eventually they were printed en masse by the War Resisters League. It was one of the most significant classified documents leaks in U.S. history.

Many of the documents were labeled "COINTELPRO." At the time, all people could tell was this was some sort of mysterious acronym for something, but not what it stood for, or what its relevance was. Only through public revelation of the documents, and ensuing revelations from other sources of information, did it finally come out that "COINTELPRO" was short for "Counter-Intelligence Program," and that it was the codename for the FBI's dirty little secret.

While the Pentagon Papers get much of the credit for exposing government malfeasance in Southeast Asia, the "COINTELPRO Papers" exposed the extensive and highly illegal activity the FBI was engaged in domestically, going back decades, to undermine the civil rights, labor and anti-war movements. Not limiting themselves to mere spying on law-abiding activists (illegal as that was), disinformation campaigns were used to actively pit Black nationalist groups against each other, and to alienate them from their support base. Paid infiltrators were sent to disrupt organizing efforts, and false evidence was planted to secure convictions. Field agents were even scolded for not misreporting their observations in such a way as to justify more government repression of free assembly.

As we continue to shape the face of the still-budding Information Age, so too do we shape the landscape on which wars of information are waged.

In the wake of these revelations, Congress formed the Church Committee to investigate abuses of power by the FBI. Fundamental changes were proposed, and some were implemented. COINTELPRO, by name, was discontinued (although much of the same activities continued without the name). Most importantly, the Freedom of Information Act was significantly expanded in the following years (thanks in part to the COINTELPRO leak, as well as the Pentagon Papers and the Watergate cover-up), to better enable open discovery of government activity.

However, while the FoIA reaffirmed in written law the right of the public to know what its government is up to (a position supported by the spirit of the Constitution, if not the letter of it), like all government-supervised sources of transparency, it was fundamentally flawed. Government agencies themselves were at liberty to redact whatever portions

▸ **WIKILEAKS,** continued on page 12

WORKS IN PROGRESS
ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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All about the Berryhills	Bethel Prescott
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Ben Gus	Diana Valenzuela
Teresa Jennings	Berd Whitlock
Margaret Love	Scott Yoos
Joe Martineau	
Joshua Neuhouser	and room for more...

Cover photo by Berd Whitlock

WIP Schedule
Submission Deadline:
January 21
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
January 28
(Be there for the first read!)

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TESC DIVEST UPDATE

TESC Divest takes on Winter Quarter

by Will Blackwell and Lucas Claussen

Author's note: "Evergreen Foundation" or "the Foundation" refers to 'The Evergreen State College Foundation' a 501(c)3 nonprofit that raises money in support of The Evergreen State College.

TESC Divest is one of the latest autonomous incarnations of the student led Palestinian solidarity movement at Evergreen. We are pushing for divestment from Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and a boycott of Caterpillar Inc. on campus, to be in effect "until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with international law." (http://wef-palestine.org/bds). We remain committed to working toward the implementation of the student resolutions passed on June 2, 2010 at Evergreen in a historic student vote for human rights and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

At the same time, since the resounding call for divestment and leadership of the students (and the resulting work on the part of other segments of the Evergreen community in support of the students), the Evergreen administration and the Evergreen Foundation have been almost entirely uncooperative and slow to move forward with any meaningful action toward respecting and implementing the student vote. We remain committed to holding the college accountable to the student resolutions and encourage others to support us as we progress. Investment management for an institution like Evergreen can be complex and difficult, but this cannot be used as an excuse for inaction in the face of political intimidation. Evergreen is an institution with the wisdom and creative resources to accomplish this moral and just obligation. It is possible and imperative to commit to action and divest from war profiteering as part of a strong socially responsible investment policy with an unwavering commitment to human rights. Adding our voice and action to this call for justice would yet again place Evergreen firmly on the side of struggles for justice and self-determination for oppressed peoples locally and globally.

We recognize that the college is under a multitude of pressures, not the least of which is the horrific state of the budget and economy into the near future. We also recognize the institutional desire toward "stability" in our finances. Some may say that socially responsible investment is a drain or negative force on the college's investments and holdings. This echoes the contemporary corporate emphasis on the bottom line as the only worthwhile pursuit. As a supposedly socially and environmentally conscious college, do we really want to be known for caring more about our wallets than our impact on the world? Evergreen has already chosen not to be associated with tobacco companies and the genocide in Darfur. In the spirit of this precedent, the students have shown that we also do not want to support human rights abuses in Palestine. In particular for Evergreen, it is shameful to see a lack of a strong socially, economically, and ecologically responsible investment policy. For a college presenting a green and progressive image, holding investments in companies that make war crimes possible seems a bit of a glaring, ironic hypocrisy.

In fact, socially responsible investment will not negatively affect the college's financial portfolio. As the call for BDS gains more supporters, which will continue as long as the occupation is maintained, these corporations will be negatively affected and their stock prices will drop accordingly. Even from a strictly financial sense, it makes sense not to keep money in these unpopular and unethical companies. Clearly, the argument against divestment does not hold up on either a moral or a financial level.

We have repeatedly asked to have more discussion with the college administration and Trustees regarding divestment. TESC Divest has continued the work of helping to educate the campus and raise awareness and discussion around the issue of Palestine, but has also worked to find ways to engage with the college in meaningful and progressive ways that can result in implementation of the student vote. As stated at the November Board of Trustees meeting, although we respect the process and work of the college administration, we do not accept inaction. The status quo in terms of investment is a stand in and of itself - a total disregard for human rights as well as any meaningful student participation in the governance of Evergreen. We remain ready to engage with the administration and Foundation in moving forward with putting the student resolutions into practice. Evergreen has often emphasized the importance of putting theory and ideals into practice, and it is our hope that now the administration will follow the lead of the students in sticking to Evergreen's mission and values.

For those in our community who might offer arguments against divestment as at best ineffective, or at worst "anti-Israel" or anti-Semitic, we welcome your criticism and are open to civil and intelligent discourse, discussion, debate, and engagement around this issue. Action on the part of justice does not preclude discussion and debate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In fact, we have facilitated many educational speakers and events around the issue. If supporters of Israeli policy want a stronger pro-Israel voice on campus, we offer that they do the same rather than accuse or attack the work of Palestinian solidarity activists or our allies on campus. A strong socially responsible investment policy with an unwavering commitment to human rights should be a "no-brainer" at a college as interesting and supposedly unique and progressive as Evergreen is (or was founded to be). We seek allies and solidarity in our struggle, and we offer ours to other struggles for justice.

In our continuing commitment to anti-racist and anti-oppressive organizing, we refuse to be silenced or intimidated. We also refuse to let the often unheard voices of our radical Jewish and Palestinian friends and comrades be silenced or attacked as we work toward justice and in solidarity with Palestinians. In this light, we question the nature of Israeli Consul General Akiva Tor's recent visit to the Puget Sound area, which included a meeting with Dr. Thomas 'Les' Purce, President of Evergreen, as well as a meeting with the Board of the Port Townsend Food Co-Op. We also abhor the recent attempts at intimidation of our supportive allies, including Evergreen faculty, on Evergreen's Olympia campus.

So, what can you do to support our work? If you are an alum or supporter of the college, let Evergreen and the Foundation know that you support a socially responsible investment policy! One of the college's fears is a supposed "drying up" of donors to the Evergreen Foundation if the college divests from the occupation. You can help alleviate this fear by letting the college know that you will continue to donate (and maybe even donate more!) if they implement the student resolutions!

You'll be hearing more from us in the coming months. TESC Divest sees our work as part of the web of other struggles and groups on campus, in Olympia, and beyond. In the coming new year, we have some interesting and exciting plans. Watch for our involvement in a number of exciting events around Olympia in the first half of 2011.

UPDATE: Board of Trustee's Meeting - Evergreen State College November 2010

During the last Evergreen Board of Trustees meeting, held on November 17th, 2010 at Evergreen's Olympia campus, over a dozen people spoke on the subject of divestment and the student vote. The comments were mostly supportive of the student mandates for divestment and the Caterpillar boycott, although some people were either outright against divestment, offering harsh criticism of student organizing on this front, or cautioned the Trustees in their action around the student vote. TESC Divest, as well as some of our friends and allies, offered the board a number of comments, including several expectations we have:

- An item on the next Board of Trustee's public meeting in January 2011 about the issue of divestment and banning Caterpillar Inc. equipment from campus.
- An update on the progress and process of the "investment review process" that Les offered to the community.
- As part of any review of the investment policy, we expect that the Foundation and College Administration will work to incorporate community involvement in this "process". We have yet to see any notice or action regarding this review, and we fear that this small token from Les and the college is not much more than a smoke screen - a common tactic of college administrations, but one which we have prepared for after eight years of divestment work at Evergreen.

Will Blackwell, a Evergreen sophomore, and Lucas Claussen, an Evergreen alum ('05), are both members of TESC Divest.

JOIN THE ONE BIG UNION

JOIN OLYMPIA IWW

The Industrial Workers of the World is a union for all workers, dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities. We organize to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers to meet the needs of the entire population, not just a handful of exploiters.

The Olympia General Membership Branch of the IWW meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, at the IWW office upstairs at the corner of 4th & Adams.

Feel free to contact us at olywobs@riseup.net. Also, please pick up a free newspaper from our box on the corner of 4th and Washington downtown!

Olympia isn't Oakland, California

by Diana Valenzuela

Olympia isn't Oakland, California.

There are obvious differences as well as more subtle ones; having just moved from Oakland, I have had a good chance to compare the two towns. This past summer, for instance, Olympia experienced a large political controversy regarding the infamous boycott, a situation that sparked protest, dialogue, and plenty of passionate *WIP* articles.

This past summer in Oakland, however, the city was thrown into a riotous uproar as we neared the result of a long-awaited verdict. Johannes Mehserle, a former Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) policeman was tried for the murder of Oscar Grant, a victim of police brutality who is oftentimes considered to be the Northern California version of Rodney King. Mehserle was tried in Southern California by a jury of eight women and four men, and was convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

For those of you who are entirely unfamiliar with Oscar Grant's story, here's a brief synopsis of the events: Oscar Grant, a Bay Area resident who was taking public transit with some friends on New Years Day at around 2 a.m., was reportedly involved in a fight on a BART train. Grant and his friends were then detained by several officers, including Johannes Mehserle and Tony Pirone. and The details of the disruption are unclear--witnesses argue that Grant and his friends were consistently peaceful throughout the altercation while Pirone's defense argued that Grant had been the aggressor. Pirone held Grant down and shouted a racial epithet while a reportedly confused Mehserle shot Grant. Mehserle argued that he had mistook his gun for a taser and testified that he had not been aware that he was holding his gun until moments after the fatal shot.

After the incident, angry protesters took a stand against the unnecessarily cruel actions of transit police. Grainy videos of the incident ended up on YouTube, which fueled the backlash towards BART police. The shocking visuals and violent riots added to a mounting local tension that resulted in the trial being relocated to a county in southern California, where jurors would arguably be unbiased.

Mehserle's story about the taser mistake held up well enough in court to earn him a more lenient sentence; the jury did not care to charge him with second degree murder, but opted for involuntary manslaughter instead. Essentially, it was decided that the incident was an act that had not been deliberated upon, even for a moment (those who are not familiar with judicial jargon should know that one is charged with second degree murder when one has consciously committed a murder, but has done so without malice).

The claims that Mehserle had accidentally committed this crime seem dubious at best. Not only were the taser and gun in different positions on Mehserle's body, but they were a different color and "feel," according to the prosecution. While it is unlikely that Mehserle is a sociopath who was hungering to harm minority citizens, one should be recognize that he consciously harmed a man who, by all accounts, was not dangerous and was, at worst, only mildly confrontational.

Oakland had it's share of peaceful protests and violent uproars, but the combined energy seemed to support an Us Vs. Them mentality, as opposed to an opportunity to engage others in progressive dialogue. Most civilians and some organizations, such as the NAACP, recognized the shooting as a crime, while authorities released muddled statements. Moreover, the community voiced its opinion that the crime had been racially charged, while BART asserted that race had not played into the incident.

I remember riding home the afternoon the verdict was announced; I was overwhelmed by the number of businesses closing abruptly in the middle of the afternoon.

Personally, I remember riding home the afternoon that the verdict was announced; I was overwhelmed by the number of businesses that were not only closing abruptly in the middle of the afternoon, but boarding up their windows and plastering the thin wood with posters that professed sympathy for Grant. I remember people on the streets searching for an outlet for their frustration, I remember the riots downtown, and lastly, I remember Oscar Grant himself. In fact, he was a butcher at the grocery store a few blocks down from the house I grew up in, and he sold meat to us a few days before he died. He was shot at the BART station a mile in the opposite direction, the station where I first kissed a boy, where all of the Day of the Dead festivals I have ever attended were held. I feel unashamedly close to Grant because he is tied into the heart of my city and has laced himself inexplicably into my life and childhood neighborhood.

Grant is a ghost of Oakland for me, a working class minority who was killed without reason and whose death further polarized the efforts of the community and the efforts of local officials. Here is the hectic miscommunication that I grew up with--the sense of beauty that a large city holds, tightly knotted with a feeling of overwhelming helplessness in the face of despotic brutality.

So I bring you this story, Olympia, in the hopes that you recognize that the power of political and religious differences is no match for the ability to communicate with civility. And moreover, that you are inspired to stand up to any force that may abuse its power, possibly at the risk of human life. Also, take note that while the trial is over, many are still confused, and tension is still high, the community has not given up. Be sure to watch out for the film *Operation Small Axe*, which connects the shooting to larger issues and other incidents of police brutality in the Bay Area.

Sneak Preview
8th annual Middle East film festival

This February 2011, the Mideast Solidarity Project (MSP) at The Evergreen State College is hosting the 8th Annual Middle East Film Festival.

Founded during the 2003-2004 academic year at Evergreen by the then "Middle East" solidarity student group, SESAME (now MSP), the Middle East Film Festival continues to be an expression and event based around solidarity, art, activism, film, and other mediums of resistance and expression which has enriched our communities and brought amazing films and guests to Evergreen and Olympia. We hope the 8th Annual Middle East Film Festival will build on this amazing and rewarding tradition and you will join us for this incredible event!

The Mideast Solidarity Project (MSP) raises awareness about human rights, immigration, and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East, surrounding regions, and the Diaspora. By challenging stereotypes and misrepresentation of regional conflicts, and training organizers, MSP works as an advocate and an ally. MSP serves as an active educational resource, a tool for solidarity building, and a means for anti-racist organizing on campus and in our community.

Previous Middle East Film Festivals at Evergreen have included Palestinian Hip Hop artists SlingShot Hip Hop, films on Darfur, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, GLBTQ issues in Islam and the "Middle East", explorations and themes of identities, self-determination, occupation, and resistance. The Festival has brought an impressive list of speakers (and films) including Adam Shapiro (About Baghdad), Norman Finkelstein, Cindy and Craig Corrie, Parvez Sharma (A Jihad for Love), Battle of Algiers, and Michel Shehadeh to the Evergreen and Olympia communities.

MSP has some exciting plans for the upcoming 8th Annual Festival, which includes the Tacoma Campus as well as working with a variety of community and student groups to bring some amazing films, performers, and speakers to the Evergreen and Olympia communities!

Watch for more information about the 8th Annual Middle East Film Festival in the next issue of *Works in Progress*, and at our website mspfilmfestival.org

Ramzy Baroud

Ramzy Baroud will be returning to Olympia and Evergreen in February 2011 to take part in the 8th Annual Middle East Film Festival hosted and organized by the student group MSP. MSP is privileged and honored to have this amazing guest and friend return. Ramzy Baroud is a Palestinian-American author and journalist, and former Al-Jazeera producer, Ramzy Baroud taught Mass Communication at Australia's Curtin University of Technology, and is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Palestine Chronicle. www.ramzybaroud.net

Mr. Baroud, a Palestinian refugee from the Gaza Strip, is a powerful voice for a "people's history of Gaza and Palestine". Mr. Baroud will be presenting the film "Gaza-London" in addition to taking part in a number of other events during the 8th Annual Middle East Film Festival in February at The Evergreen State College.

The audience can also look forward to screenings and discussions with Seattle based filmmaker and activist Jen Marlowe, and a locally produced film about the BDS movement from filmmaker and activist Johan Genberg.

Cultivating Real Homeland Security:
A Just, Sustainable and Resilient Food System for Thurston County

Monday, January 17th 7-9pm, (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
Olympia Unitarian Universalist Church, 2200 East End St NW

"The time is always right to do what is right" – Martin Luther King Jr.

Where our food comes from, how it's produced, and how it gets to our table has tremendous implications for our ability to create a secure and sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.

The cumulative pressures of Peak Oil, climate change, and economic uncertainty cast serious doubt on the ability of the current globalized, corporatized industrial food system to ensure adequate healthy food for the future. Across the planet millions go to bed hungry every night, while millions of others suffer from obesity, diabetes and other by-products of overconsumption and unhealthy foods. Here in Thurston County, food bank visits are at an all time high, local farmers struggle to earn enough to pay their bills, and urban sprawl gobbles up prime agricultural land at an alarming rate. Meanwhile, the vast majority of the public stumbles blindly into the future, not thinking twice about hopping into their cars and motoring down to the corporate grocery to buy grapes from Chile, kiwis from New Zealand, and avocados from Mexico.

How did we get here? More importantly, what can we do locally to cultivate a food system that is just, sustainable, and resilient? How can we use our existing assets – fertile farmland, an educated population, and a strong environmental and social justice ethic – to provide wholesome, local food to all members of our community, while also creating good jobs, a strong local economy, protecting farmland, beautifying our urban spaces, and preparing the community for an uncertain future? What are the roles of individuals, activists, non-profit organizations, local businesses and local governments?

Join us on Monday, January 17th (Martin Luther King Jr., day) from 7-9pm at the Olympian Unitarian Universalist Church, 2200 East End St NW as we explore these and other questions and begin the dialogue about creating a just, sustainable, and resilient local food system.

TJ Johnson, local food activist and Director of the Urban Agriculture Program at Sustainable South Sound will present information about the current food system, identify opportunities for re-localizing food production, and offer ideas for moving forward. Following the presentation there will be an open discussion and a chance for everyone in attendance to begin envisioning solutions.

Sponsored by: Transition Olympia-Climate Action, Sustainable South Sound, and the OUUC Ethical Eating Committee

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1970's citizen journalism in Olympia

Link founder's death prompts historical reflections

by Emily Ray

They say, "What goes around comes around." Forty years ago, *The Daily Olympian* (as it was then named) did not serve our community well. The editor-in-chief turned a blind eye to local social and political issues. The newspaper was generally silent on problems and initiatives concerning race relations, gender, growth management, waste reduction, and the environment. When the newspaper did glance at any of these issues, it was with a jaundiced eye. Legislative sessions right here in our capital city might as well have happened on another planet.

Electronic communication and the ubiquitous blogs of today were still in the distant future. Those of us with urgent causes felt cut off, marooned, unable to reach like-minded people.

One of the people who was angry about the newspaper was Margery Sayre. With her partner Jocelyn Dohm, owner of the Sherwood Press, she gathered some political allies. The outcome of this meeting was *the Link* newsletter, an early example of citizen journalism in Olympia.

Our first issue hit the post office in January 1970, and we published monthly until we disbanded three years later. Six to ten legal-sized pages each month, jam-packed with local news, all for a modest subscription cost of $2 a year! At its peak circulation, *the Link* served 900 households. A total of 70 people eventually helped produce it.

Our purpose, boldly stated in our inaugural issue was "to give liberals and their friends in Thurston County a thorough, reliable, non-time consuming, and inexpensive way of telling each other what they are doing and thinking and what they wish others of like persuasion would help them do."

We said we viewed liberals as persons who look at politics, economics and institutions from the standpoints of general social well-being and individual liberties. "Sometimes these two criteria reinforce each other; sometimes they seem to contradict each other," we noted. These sorts of contradictions continue today; think of those of us who want universal health care and agree with mandatory health insurance, but at the same time are champions of individual rights in general.

A "Calendar of Events for the Action-Minded" was core to *the Link*, and was Margery's particular focus. We typically advertised activities of organizations like the League of Women Voters, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Washington Democratic Council. We published the appeals of various organizations for volunteers to leaflet, march, serve on phone lines, campaign for candidates, boycott agricultural products, and/or donate money.

Our pages show the earliest stirrings of the Thurston Urban League, the Nisqually Delta Association, the Society of Friends, the Olympia Food Co-op, the KAOS radio station at The Evergreen State College, the Community for Interfaith Celebration (originally the Community for Christian Celebration), and the Olympia chapters of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, the Sierra Club, and the National Organization for Women. BLOSSOM (Basic Liberation of Smokers and Sympathizers of Marijuana) also sought support though our pages.

We advertised Group Health Cooperative's formative efforts here, and the promise of full health care for a family of four for $35 a month. Through *the Link*, readers learned about environmentally safe detergents, where to recycle paper, bottles and cans, and where to get support for breast feeding. During the legislative session, they learned about bills of potential interest. Today's young activists might see these topics as ho-hum, or insignificant, but in the early 1970's they represented brave thrusts in new directions.

Two subjects remained uppermost: the Vietnam War and Native American issues. We publicized opportunities for draft counseling and peace activism, and we followed Indian fishing and cultural survival efforts.

The editorship rotated among a number of people; however, the philosophical underpinnings were usually written by Jocelyn or Margery.

Those of us who served as editor could expect Marge to arrive. I recall well the scraps of paper she would pull out of her purse, pockets, and folders. These became the entries in the month's calendar. We also had a chance to visit while I typed away at my portable manual typewriter on the kitchen table, and my son Josh played nearby on the floor.

Our purpose was to give liberals and their friends in Thurston County a thorough, reliable way of telling each other what they are doing and thinking, and what they wish others of like persuasion would help them do.

Many people provided information for *the Link*. We provided reporters a tip sheet describing interview techniques, including what questions to ask and what to say if asked about the purpose of the newsletter. The tip sheet stressed that items were to be mainly local, current, and activist-oriented.

Peg Wortman, one of the frequent editors, made order out of our chaos by compiling the policies we seemed to be following but had not articulated. She also listed all the names and contact information for the people who carried out the many tasks involved.

Printing of *the Link* happened in two stages: Jocelyn pre-printed the masthead in color, and the issues were run on a mimeograph machine at the office of the League of Women Voters, then in the basement of the old Governor Hotel. We donated $3 to the League each month for this use.

The Link was more than a newsletter – it became a mini-community. Every month, volunteers would gather at the home of Hortense Allison to fold, staple, and stamp "The Link." Hortense was, in a sense, our spiritual grandmother. Then in her upper 80's, she had lived on a commune and been part of the Garment Workers' Union. She was still an active member of the American Communist Party, a connection she kept fairly private. Our folding parties were full of laughter and camaraderie. Children were always welcome; my son at age four became an expert stapler.

A gathering of *Link* workers, reflecting on the old days of alternative press- From upper-left to Lower-right, Carol Burns, Anne Matthews, Dave Rae, Emily Rae, Peg Worthman, and June Hansen

About the time our volunteer energy flagged, new young organizations started to become the missing links between like-minded people. *The Olympian* began to give more space and fairer coverage to our concerns, including announcements of upcoming events. In our farewell issue we said:

"This month, *the Link* completes its third year. With the passing of this time and last month's national election in which we feel we helped to give "Americans a chance to choose modesty and peace instead of greed and war (a chance they blew), we bring *the Link* to an end.

"We hope *the Link* has done what it set out to do: to put liberals in Thurston County in touch with one another. We think the idea is still a good one, but we feel that it is time for the few on whose shoulders the bulk of the work has fallen to get back or get on to doing some other things.

"And we are just a little concerned that we may have gotten in a rut. The other day we got a message reading, 'As a liberal, I consider my goal the well-being, and therefore the unification, of the human race. *The Link* is an attempt to divide people, rather than unite them.' We surely don't want to do that.

"So we leave you with a few suggestions about groups hereabouts who help to keep people united..."

Then followed a list of "good guy" organizations with newsletters.

The editor of the first and last issues was Margery Sayre.

After we ceased publication, Jocelyn noted that we still had $300 in the bank. What should we do with it? How better to decide than to have a party? Several dozen of us gathered for a potluck at Marge and Jocelyn's home, then on Fish Trap Loop. We recounted our adventures with *the Link*, remembering our triumphs and embarrassments along the way. At the end, we pondered the ways we could spend our treasury. We voted unanimously to contribute our money to a "good guy" cause. With that, *the Link* officially ended.

The Link didn't really end for me though, until Marge Sayre's death this last October 7. She and Jocelyn, who died in 2003, were the energetic core of our little enterprise. Marge's death severs my link with those adrenaline-filled days of righteous campaigning.

Margery's caregiver of the last seven years of her life, Sandia Slaby, became fully aware of Margery's strong interest in community affairs and activities. Sandia noted that, to the end of her life, Marge would scour every possible source for information about events in our community, and would either write them onto her own calendar, or file them in her month-by-month events *file*! Sandia said, "I believe she did this for a few reasons. First, being an informed, active citizen was of utmost importance to her. Second, her community was pivotal to her, and had been all her life. (FYI - I went with her to her *70th* kindergarten reunion in New Jersey, and she still cared about and enjoyed connecting with them and having conversations with about current national & local issues.) And third, (contrary to how she was commonly perceived) she was a people-person; she craved intimate connections with others, and she mostly knew how to achieve that through intellectual engagement."

Margery's recent sentiments about her town's daily newspaper, *The Olympian*, were no secret, according to Sandia: "'It doesn't serve Olympia!,' I witnessed Margery raging frequently. And it was often in recent years that her friends or strangers alike mentioned *their* dissatisfaction with what that paper has become as a news source."

Founding *Link* workers

Hortense Allison
Christine Clishe
Jocelyn Dohm
Hu Favaro
Bill and Joanne Larsen
Marjorie Montgomery
Bob Plaja
Dave and Emily Ray
Dorothy Robinson
Margery Sayre

Today, *The Olympian* is a thin vestige of a newspaper. Its circulation peaked in 1998 and is now just 60 percent of that level. It is handy for movie listings (although not always correct) and obituaries and snippets of news from here and around the globe. It goes to bed so early that important civic events get little or no coverage.

Sandia remembers that Margery toiled for a few years about whether to cancel her subscription to *The Olympian*. "Before she did so last year, as with most of her business interactions, Margery Sayre walked in to speak in person to the editor," Sandia said. "'What happened to the 'Events' page?' Margery barked. 'The paper doesn't even list what is happening when *in Olympia* anymore!' Margery clearly felt that her interests had fallen on deaf ears that day, and she cancelled her subscription. But only a few weeks later, when Margery found out how much it was going to cost her to buy a separate TV Guide – almost the only information of value that *The Olympian* had been providing her in recent years – she resigned herself to a partial subscription *just* to get their TV guide again."

A variety of other sources of local information have emerged through the

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

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Introducing Noam Chomsky

by Peter Bohmer

From November 1, 2010 at the Thomas Merton Center Dinner for Noam Chomsky where he was given their annual award for lifelong contributions to Social Justice.

It is great to be back in Pittsburgh. I lived here from 1984-1987 and have fond memories of its people and the movements I was involved in—unemployed groups, anti-apartheid and Central American solidarity. The Thomas Merton Center was involved in all of them. The persistence and dedication of the Merton Center and its members in working on the most important issues of the day from 1972 to the present is inspiring and impressive.

This is the second time I have introduced Noam Chomsky. The first time was in Olympia WA 15 years ago where in front of 1800 people he corrected me for saying here is a man who speaks truth to power. Noam said he believes in speaking truth to those who do not have power. Very profound and simple and strategic!

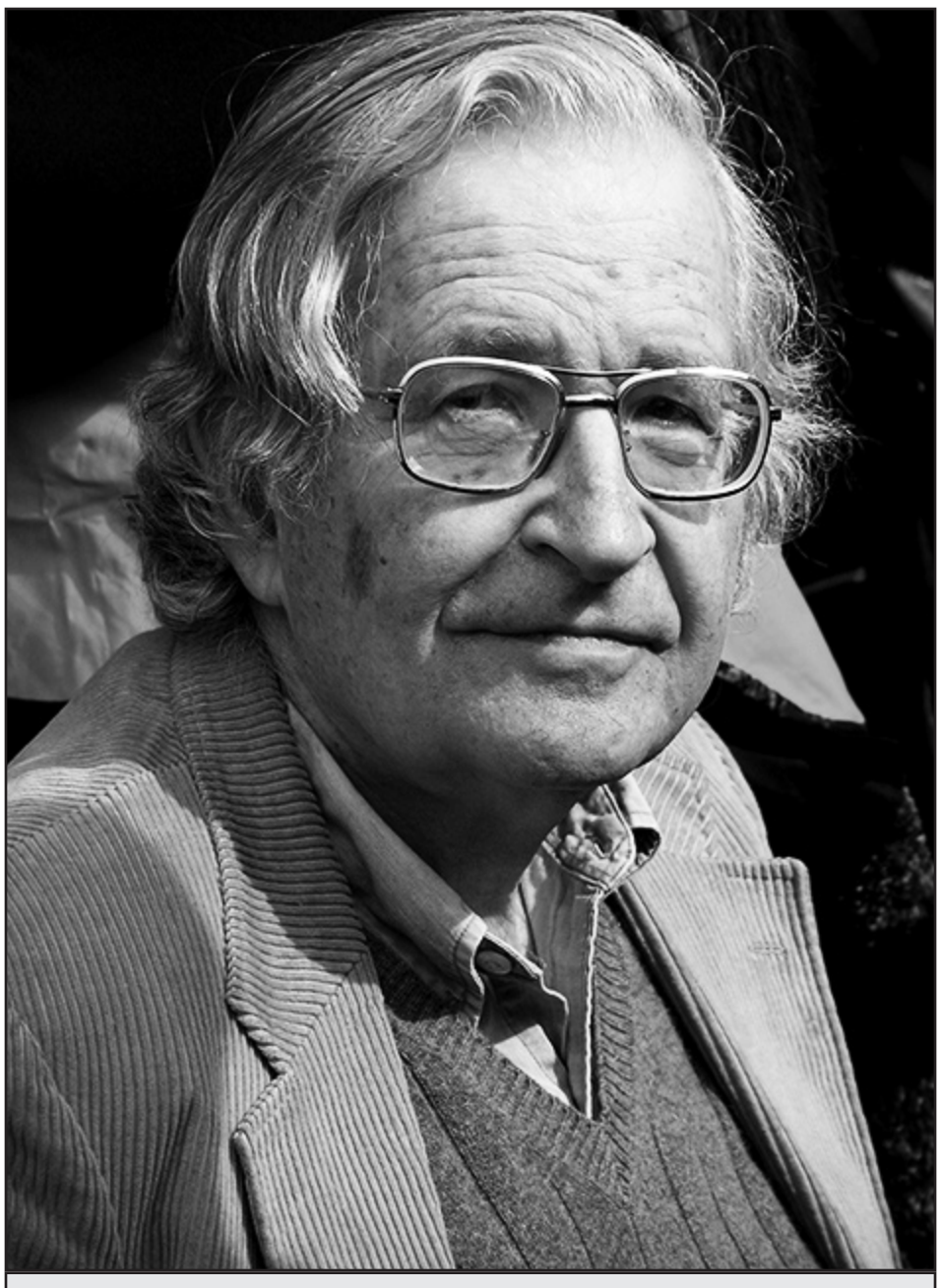
One of the many things I respect so much is Noam's unwavering and systemic criticism of our political and economic system and those who run it; his belief that meaningful and radical change come from the bottom up, his respect for ordinary people—their intelligence and that when they have access to good information, they will act in ethical ways to further equality and justice. Noam's integrity, his moral compass and his commitment to do what he can to create a world where all people can live with dignity are exemplary.

It is a great pleasure and honor to introduce Noam Chomsky whom I first got to know taking a class he taught in 1968 called "Intellectuals and Social Change". His class profoundly changed my life and the lives of many other students in it. I now ask all of you to reflect a little on when you first became acquainted with Chomsky's ideas and writings and talks and how they have affected and influenced you and changed you.

I remember going to his office and seeing newspapers from many places as well as government documents and writings by major policymakers and apologists for U.S. policy such as Arthur Schlesinger Jr. I learned the importance of not just reading people on the left but of also carefully reading and critiquing primary sources such as national security documents and government reports.

Let me share a few of the ideas I learned in that class and since that I find essential. Noam pointed out the United States was fighting a war against the people of Vietnam because U.S. elites would not permit a country to be totally independent of U.S. control. The domino theory that the U.S. was committed to stop was that a society organized to meet the needs of its people, would inspire oppressed people in other nations to revolt. It wasn't external subversion spreading but rather what Noam later called in speaking up so cogently against the U.S. organized war against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua-- the threat of a good example.

A society overcoming poverty, illiteracy, lack of health care and hunger was an enemy because this positive example could spread to other U.S. allies such as El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala where U.S. multinationals dominated. He pointed out that the freedom the U.S. is concerned about protecting is the freedom of U.S. multinationals to exploit. This analysis has informed my understanding of U.S. aggression against Cuba and current attempts to subvert Venezuela.



Chomsky, at a Vancouver peace march and rally in 2004 - Photo by Duncan Rawlinson

Another important idea I learned is how narrow the debate is among the policy makers, mass media, and Democrats and Republicans. Noam pointed out with regards to the so-called respectable opinion about the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, that neither the Doves nor the Hawks questioned the right of the United States to intervene and fight in Vietnam, or the morality of the war. We see this in the present when much of the support or opposition to the U.S. wars in Iraq, Afghanistan is based on whether the U.S. can win these wars which is the wrong question—the right of the U.S. to be there, the right of self-determination is almost never asked. We need to expand this debate just like we need to expand our discussion of alternate ideologies and of alternate economic systems beyond neoliberal capitalism versus Keynesian capitalism.

Related to this is Noam's demonstration that the U.S. fears and opposes democracy around the world rather than its claims that it promotes it. Look at some of our closest allies in the Middle East. Would truly democratic societies in the Middle East support U.S. domination? Wouldn't they use their oil and resources to meet the needs of their own people and not put the interests of their own elites and Exxon-Mobil and Boeing first? That is why the U.S. supports the dictatorships of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

I remember his constant challenging the expertise claimed by the architects of the Vietnam war and his lifelong work to undermine their elitism, secrecy and undemocratic nature. Also important then and now is Noam's argument that when those in power used the term, national interest, to justify U.S. intervention, counterinsurgency, and war; they use the term, national interest, to hide the narrow interests of the rich and powerful.

What also came across consistently is his strong commitment to libertarian socialism. We read Rosa Luxemburg, her powerful advocacy for socialism and revolution and her commitment to free speech and worker self-organization but opposition to vanguard parties. I learned about the Spanish Civil war and the programs of anarchists and others who put the needs and self-organization of landless peasants and workers first in fighting fascism. His commitment to the truth and evidence is central to his analysis even if it meant criticizing for example, revolutions and revolutionary groups such as the National Liberation Front in Vietnam. At the same time, he always made clear that we live in the United States and our main responsibility is to challenge our own government and institutions.

Another principle that Noam taught and has continued to apply is challenging the double standard the United States uses for itself compared to others; how it doesn't apply principles to ourselves and our allies that we apply to our so-called enemies. I remember Noam's comments in our class that Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba in 1962 were unacceptable to U.S. leaders who were willing to fight a nuclear war over them, while U.S. nuclear weapons in Turkey should not be questioned. Or today how Israeli and U.S. nuclear weapons are perfectly acceptable while with regards to Iran, it is conventional wisdom that Iran should be destroyed if building them.

Noam pointed out the domino theory the U.S. was committed to stop was a society organized to meet the needs of its people that would inspire oppressed people in other nations to revolt. It wasn't external subversion spreading but rather the threat of a good example.

Noam has consistently supported political prisoners throughout the world. I can attest to this from my own personal experience when I was incarcerated in a California State Prison in 1973 and he provided a lot of public support such as promoting a petition calling for my release.

The midterm elections have come and gone and Republicans have gained seats in US Congress and at the State level. We should not blame the American people. Rather we need to build social movements that explain what is going on and why, that link the U.S. wars abroad to the economic war on people at home, that builds power from below, that are based on the best in people, and that project alternatives beyond the corporate liberal and pro-war ones of the current administration. Noam Chomsky has contributed in so many ways to changing the dominant narrative. The theme of his talk tonight is War and the U.S. Economy.

Noam's lifelong commitment to speaking the truth to those without power is inspirational. His ideas and speaking up against injustice and his moral clarity have resonated with, taught and influenced so many of us, nationally and globally.

Thank You, Noam!

Peter Bohmer is faculty in Economics and Political Economy, The Evergreen State College.

years. Excellent examples include *Works In Progress, Green Pages, Olympia Power and Light, The Counter Point Journal (currently on hiatus), The Cooper Point Journal, OlyBlog* ("devoted to citizen journalism"), and Janine Gates' *Little Hollywood* blog, and video interviews on *Everyday Olympia* and TCTV. (Another was *The Sitting Duck*, no longer in business.)

Yet, multiplicity of information sources may create a new problem: How do we keep track of all the issues and schedules? How can we avoid good causes stepping on each other's toes as they plan fund raising events? What emerging causes have not yet found a voice?

For some people, the TC Pro-Net (Thurston County Progressive Network) Community Events Newsletter is a major part of the answer. TC Pro-Net's weekly electronic calendar, now beginning its seventh year, has over 800 subscribers and about 200 of those are paid ($20/year) supporters, according to Sherri Goulet, publisher, who also helps coordinate efforts of different organizations so they don't overlap. Although Margery never learned to use computerized information sources, she did participate in a few of the regular events TC Pro-Net organizes for progressives to get together, Sandia reported. (Readers may wish to check out their website, tcpronet.org).

I confess that the TC Pro-Net calendar arrived in my inbox from some friends for a number of years, and I regularly deleted it, thinking it was an ad for films. At Sandia's urging, I gave it closer examination. Yes, I have to agree with her—their publication is the modern *Link*. A quick perusal of a recent issue reveals announcements relating to a possible addictions ministry, women's rights, PFLAG, city council's consideration of heights on the isthmus, an alternative gift fair, a write-a-thon against the death penalty, a peace vigil, and more.

Marge Sayre and friends were up to the challenge of linking progressives in 1970. Forty years later, a new cadre of activists is linking progressives together using electronic technologies. With information comes the potential for involvement and the power to bring about positive change. Margery knew that. She also knew that speaking up and organizing was what it took to make the world a better place. With all this new technology helping us network with like-minded people, may we make Margery proud.

Community, Unity, and Recovery

The effects of anarchism on cross-cultural community building in Alcoholics Anonymous

by Amy Levinson and Dean Worgan

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. Unity—Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition One read at every AA meeting globally

The prime problem of Alcoholics Anonymous is how to grow, survive and prosper... Tradition One serves as a prudent reminder and warning that through our common welfare, unity and harmonious action, Alcoholics Anonymous lives or we die. Unity is our most cherished quality.—Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous 1969

When we come into AA we find a greater personal freedom than any other society knows. We cannot be compelled to do anything. In that sense our society is a benign anarchy. The word 'anarchy' has a bad meaning to most of us. . . . But I think that the gentle Russian prince who so strongly advocated the idea felt that if men were granted absolute liberty, and were compelled to obey no one in person, they would voluntarily associate themselves in the common interest. AA is an association of the benign sort the prince envisioned.—Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, 1957

A society entering into possession of the social capital accumulated by the labor of preceding generations, organizing itself so as to make use of this capital in the interests of all, and constituting itself without reconstituting the power of the ruling minorities...is comprised of an infinite variety of capacities, temperaments and individual energies: it excludes none.

Acknowledging, as a fact, the equal rights of all its members to the treasures accumulated in the past, it no longer recognizes a division between exploited and exploiters, governed and governors, dominated and dominators, and it seeks to establish a certain harmonious compatibility in its midst — not by subjecting all its members to an authority that is fictitiously supposed to represent society, not by trying to establish uniformity... It seeks the most complete development of individuality combined with the highest development of voluntary association in all its aspects, in all possible degrees, for all imaginable aims.

In the practice of mutual aid, which we can retrace to the earliest beginnings of evolution, we thus find the positive and undoubted origin of our ethical conceptions; and we can affirm that in the ethical progress of man, mutual support — not mutual struggle — has had the leading part.—Peter Kropotkin, Russian Prince, revolutionary and geographer, foremost theorist of anarchism, 1896, 1902, 1911

Introduction

How many Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings have I sat through pondering how it is that this alcoholic, agnostic, anarchist has managed to stay sober and find a philosophical home that makes me feel a part *of*, rather than apart *from*?

In AA meetings it is repeatedly said, "*Keep coming back,*" and people do. People of different ethnicities, opinions, perspectives, class standings and genders feel included enough to do so—regardless of their personal, political or cultural history and perspectives.

Why is this? The answer to that could take many forms, but it is my intention to strip the question of *inclusivity* down to its core principles, in the spirit of "keeping it simple."

My focus for this piece is to illustrate how classical anarchist philosophy and tradition, with its three key concepts—mutual aid, free association and voluntary cooperation—were codified in Alcoholics Anonymous history so strongly that it created a mini-social transformation; the creation of a community, culture and society which actively disengages from dominant power constructs.

AA is a society without political power inequalities. It is not enforced by rules and resultant punishment, there exists no scarcity of resources falsely created by power differentials (and upheld by government and corporate capitalism for the pure profit of the few). There are no elite, no ruling class and no minority class.

Through literature, language and the creation of a common moral ethic of egalitarianism, unequal hierarchical relationships based on race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation, etc, (all of that which comprises our uniqueness yet can keep us apart) are successfully mitigated in Alcoholics Anonymous to a significant degree.

AA is a cross-cultural society in and of itself, and one of the rare instances in our era of a transformative community, created upon and still utilizing a classical anarchist structure.

Critical thinking points

Every AA meeting globally starts with a reading of the following preamble as well as all twelve traditions.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.—***Preamble, Alcoholics Anonymous, 1946***

Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.—***Tradition Two, Alcoholics Anonymous, 1946***

Anarchy, when it works to destroy authority in all its aspects, when it demands the abrogation of laws and the abolition of the mechanism that serves to impose them, when it refuses all hierarchical organization and preaches free agreement — at the same time strives to maintain and enlarge the precious kernel of social customs without which no human or animal society can exist. Only, instead of demanding that those social customs should be maintained through the authority of a few, it demands it from the continued action of all.—Peter Kropotkin

AA is a cross-cultural society in and of itself, and one of the rare instances in our era of a transformative community, created upon and still utilizing a classical anarchist structure.

No rulers, no masters

AA co-founders Bill Wilson (Bill) and Dr. Bob Smith had distinct roles and different viewpoints which they brought to the table during the writing of the early foundational tenets of the group. Bill, a successful stockbroker, traveler and socialite was primarily responsible for the early AA writings regarding the issue of setting up a community which provides access for all. A medical doctor by training, Dr. Bob's contribution was primarily concerned with the more clinical aspects of the treatment and disease model of alcoholism.

Taken in a contextual sense, one must conjecture that Bill's philosophies, politics and theories were a product of the 1930's, as well as a well-read and rebellious mind. A long time joke in AA is to avoid telling an alcoholic what to do as they will most certainly do the opposite. The origins of this bit of philosophy may be seen in Bill's complete opposition (despite prevailing societal structures at the time) to the concepts of rules, laws and top down leadership. As he stated in 1946, AA is a "benign anarchy."

In a 1957 publication, *AA Comes of Age*, Bill clearly mentions the founder of modern anarchist philosophy, (the Anarchist Prince) Peter Kropotkin, who was also responsible for writing the definition of anarchism for the 1911 edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica.*

Bill stated that if no one was "compelled to do anything by anyone else, or compelled to obey anyone," a society would be created granting "greater personal freedom than any other," and that people would "voluntarily associate with one another" around their common interest (as in the desire to stop drinking, *AA's primary purpose*). Tradition five upholds the singleness of purpose of the AA community - to help other members, *the still suffering alcoholic.* This tradition is based on the philosophy that the entire community shares a common bond, the suffering of alcoholism. Therefore, the members and the group are best suited, by sharing their own experience, to offer solutions.

The description of classical anarchism was defined in the informational resource of Bill's era, the Encyclopedia Britannica, written by Kropotkin himself. My position is that this certainly influenced Bill's formation of the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. The practice of anarchist principles within early AA was in direct opposition to those of the Christian fundamentalist Oxford Group, whom AA broke away from. Oxford groups were hierarchical, fundamentalist and took issue with all the drunks from various social strata that Bill, Dr. Bob and early AA members would bring into groups and their personal homes.

Peter Kropotkin was a scientist and a naturalist. He was involved in several exploratory expeditions into Siberia where he closely observed the behavior of wildlife. Social Darwinism was all the rage around 1900. Businessmen commonly used it to rationalize their predatory behavior, and still do. Kropotkin took on the social Darwinists with the book *Mutual Aid,* citing many cases of mutual cooperation, rather than competition in nature.

Kropotkin states that the key value of society should be social equality and opportunity. In his view, the ruling class, powered and supported by government (and corporate capitalism in our era) maintains inequality, creating an oppressed class with resultant extreme disparities in access to wealth, power, decision-making and resources. No one person is free when any other is oppressed.

Dependency on our fellows, voluntarily joining in solidarity with those still suffering, and taking action to remove the source of individual suffering creates a society transformed from the need for power, wealth and resources.

In 1936, a large scale anarchist action must surely have caught Bill's attention. Certainly, the mainstream US media at the time was fascinated with the Spanish Civil War and covered it in detail. The uprising by landless peasants who seized the country's means of production and nationalized utilities was international news--which also covered workers organizing collectives to handle labor and administrative functions. Bill would have been in the formative first years of his own recovery as he watched societal transformation in Spain. Wages were equalized, profit was removed as the motive for industrial activity, rates were lowered for public access, and people organized at the local level to produce what their community needed. In the words of one collectivist: "those who had less now ate more and better - no one went short." Society was transformed based on the needs of all, not profit for the wealthy.

Elements of anarchism in Alcoholics Anonymous

The links between Alcoholics Anonymous and classical anarchism become even clearer when viewing the correlating elements. AA is a society without political power inequalities. It is not enforced by rules and resultant punishment, there exists no scarcity of resources falsely created by power differentials (and upheld by government and corporate capitalism for the pure profit of the few). There are no elite, no ruling class and no minority class. The three elements of classical anarchism, free association, voluntary cooperation and mutual aid are the foundation and success of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Free association—our innate right of freedom to be with anyone regardless of social, racial, gender or class standing.

Voluntary cooperation—the right, the power and the moral responsibility that every member has to actively participate at all levels in the creation and maintenance of a community whose primary purpose is to meet the needs of all members, and thereby the common good.

Mutual Aid—the sharing of resources and labor for the mutual benefit of each individual member and thereby the whole community.

These elements are combined within Alcoholics Anonymous to form the foundation of inclusivity that facilitates the success of the program. Anyone who walks in the door is welcome, *(free association*). All members have the responsibility and right to participate in the fellowship at any level for the common good*, (voluntary cooperation).* The program is based on actively helping each individual to alleviate their suffering through being of service to one another and AA as a whole, through focusing on the newcomer (AA's primary purpose), friendship, formal sponsorship, and access to all levels of service work positions *(mutual aid).*

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

The traditions

If AA has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we AA's cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain...So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first."

*Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves. Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without AA there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm AA. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."—**AA Grapevine, 1946***

The AA traditions can be found at most AA meetings in large print upon the walls, and are read at the beginning of each meeting. The main purpose of the traditions, written by Bill in 1946 after a "huge internal AA struggle to adopt them" is to provide a unifying foundation for the entire community by emphasizing common welfare over individual preference, personality or desire. The well-known AA phrase: "*principles before personality*," is an open invitation for anyone to participate without fear of domination or judgment by individuals or the group. The traditions provide AA with an egalitarian framework.

A higher power with no power

The only reference to the word "authority" appears in tradition two which states: *"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."*

Appearing in Step two of the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous is a further description of the concept of what this *one* authority is: *"God as we understand him."*

The person responsible for this inclusion was Jim Burwell, an early AA member (who was instrumental in the publicity of the widely read 1941 *Saturday Evening Post* article describing AA). Jim was an atheist who later described himself as a "militant agnostic," and got "the God bit toned down."

In AA culture the concept of God is decided upon by the individual experiencing a spiritual awakening. Conceptions can take many forms, influenced by local demographics, and may include: AA itself, the power and synergy of the group, atheism, agnosticism, mysticism, many international religions, Native American spiritual paths, as well as more whimsical personal concepts, or none.

Group conscience

Group conscience, as practiced in most AA groups, means unity of purpose through consensual decision-making about issues affecting AA. Official governance and authority in AA do not exist. Group conscience allows for every meeting to be run differently within the overarching singleness of purpose of AA. Specific cultural traditions may be evident in some meetings, such as those whose members are comprised primarily of one ethnic group. Cussing may be the norm in some groups but not others where small children are present. Meetings are not facilitated homogeneously, they take different forms, yet all meetings rely on the three tenets of classical anarchism.

The AA structure as a whole is kept safe from the rules and moral codes of any one person or group's ideology.

Money, property and prestige

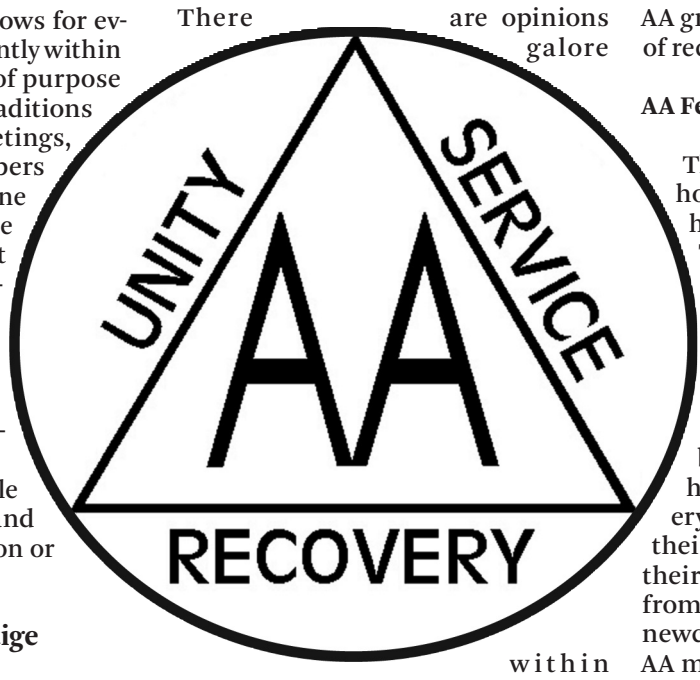
An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."—AA Tradition Six

Neither money nor conformity plays any role in membership. An AA group can be any two people who call themselves such, giving groups the freedom to bring in their own cultural traditions, which occur at bilingual meetings, agnostic, disability, senior and gay meetings. These meetings are open to anyone. Class standing, ethnic backgrounds, gender, disability — all are non-issues. AA members are told that alcoholics come from every walk of life; unity is the key to survival of AA, and thereby survival of the individual.

The traditions focus on the protection of the group from accumulation of wealth, property or prestige. This model was clearly developed on the foundation of anarchist philosophy, which views accumulation/hoarding of resources by the few, as opposed to equal resource sharing, as the major factor that divides people. It is stated in the traditions unequivocally that AA is to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions, no outside (or inside) influence can lobby for self or institutional gain.

Outside issues, autonomy and anonymity

The autonomy of each group and AA as a whole is protected from authoritarian hijacking. As Bill saw it: "With respect to its own affairs, each AA group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience." This tradition also protects the AA community from dominant personalities who might strive to seize power and control. Power is retained at the micro level, and volunteer service work positions in regional or national positions are time-limited as agreed upon by consensus at the national level. At the local level, rigid methodologies of doing things are discouraged—the traditions state: "*each AA group needs the least possible organization.*"



There are opinions galore within AA on every subject, as in any society. Yet by expressly limiting the effects of issues outside of community concerns within the discussions that occur in AA, those of politics, race and religion in particular, AA leaves the dominant culture outside the door. No individual's history, religion, race, culture, economic standing, disability or orientation limits their access to the group or program of recovery. Culture is evident in group meetings, as people share their history, but the primary AA message of recovery is in its availability to all, regardless of anything.

Anonymity, the great equalizing factor, is the reason AA exists as a functional anarchistic organization. Members are all bound together by a common purpose, no matter where they come from or who they are, there is no allowance for power grabbing, or the emergence of charismatic leadership in the seeking of common welfare.

Anonymity, the great equalizing factor, is the reason AA exists as a functional anarchistic organization. Anonymity creates equality. Members are all bound together by a common purpose, no matter where they come from or who they are. There is no allowance for power-grabbing, or the emergence of charismatic leadership in the seeking of common welfare.

To sum up: For thousands of alcoholics yet to come, AA does have an answer. But there is one condition. We must, at all costs, preserve our essential unity; it must be made unbreakably secure. Without permanent unity there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. Hence our future absolutely depends upon the creation and observance of a sound group Tradition. First things will always need to be first; humility before success, and unity before fame.—Bill Wilson, 1946

Sharing

The open and free sharing of individual experience, strength and hope by any Alcoholics Anonymous member regardless of anything is directed at identifying the strands that tie the common experience together, and defining the solutions that will be most likely to succeed regardless of external factors, social or political constructs, issues of race, culture, class, religious fundamentalism, power dynamics, sexual orientation or gender.

Any opinions are no greater or lesser than anyone else's. Members have the right to listen or not, and to take suggestions from others or not. Rules are non-existent, no one is told that they must do something a member tells them to, and there is no threat of punishment or penalty. It is suggested, to find the commonalities in others experiences, find the shared solutions to alleviate personal suffering, whilst at the same time carry this message onward to alleviate the suffering of others. The concepts of open-mindedness, willingness and honesty, as contained in the literature, contribute to effective cross-cultural community building. Racism, intolerance, bigotry and derogatory language towards individuals or cultures are effectively shut down by group members under AA's singleness of purpose of the AA group which is to carry the message of recovery to everyone in the group.

AA Fellowship

The moral imperative within Alcoholics Anonymous is to voluntarily help people regardless of any factor. This is embodied in the Responsibility Statement penned in 1965: *I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.*

Members are taught that sobriety is maintained primarily by helping other alcoholics in AA. Every member's responsibility is that their personal resources, in this case their method of maintaining sobriety from alcoholism, be shared with the newcomer, or anyone walking into an AA meeting with a desire to stop drinking. The meaning of fellowship in the context of resource-sharing within AA is to freely spend time together, with people whom one normally may not have had reason to associate with in the dominant society.

Shared language usage is formed in communities so that people can understand each other without regard to differences in culture. Shared language breaks down divisions and builds community. Within AA certain concepts may have their own lingo, back story, phrase, quote or joke that may be retold repeatedly. These may have drifted in from mainstream society, and become appropriated into AA's shared language, such as *Easy Does It*, a common phrase heard in meetings world-wide. The origin of this phrase is the 1863 play, "The Ticket-of-Leave Man," and which was used in the comic strip "Hawkshaw the Detective" from 1913-1947.

For a successful anarchist organization to work members must be able to understand and communicate with each other without the cultural lens of their own experiences and history warping the view.

AA has been denounced as a cult by outsiders with their own biases and opinions; however when one starts to understand the language of AA, it becomes clear that bias and opinion (both in and out of AA) is just that—an individualist approach which doesn't contribute to alleviating the group's stated purpose. One of Bill's favorite sayings, "*Every group has the right to be wrong,*" highlights every group's ability to continually transform.

Although there exists a tendency within AA to quote "approved" literature, there exists no tradition in the AA principles, traditions or other writing that advocates censorship of any materials, as long as it *"pertains to the principles of AA or is approved by a GROUP CONSCIENCE –then it is perfectly acceptable to be read by any AA member or in an AA meeting."* Early participants read from a diverse array of materials: Shaker writings, world religions and philosophy... and shall we say anarchist theory as well.

The term Conference Approved Literature simply denotes books and materials copyrighted and published by AA World Services. As Bill saw it: *"Here at the Foundation we are not policemen, we're a service and AA's are free to read any book they choose."*

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is encouraged in AA, as part of the concept of "service work," which is the backbone of the community and contained within most of the literature. Sponsorship means one person working closely with another person to read, understand, discuss and put

▸ **ANARCHISM,** continued on page 19

acupuncture is pretty cool.

http://2kensmith.blogspot.com/
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ken smith, l.ac.

Hopelessness and hope in the global warming crisis

by Marco Mosaire Rossi

On November 5, the United Nations released its annual human development report. This year's report indicated that positive steps were being made. In the last twenty years, the world has experienced an overall 18% increase in human development; democracy has expanded and legal equality is increasing. Only three countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, have lower human development rates than twenty years ago. However, the report did indicate that in the near future this progress could be thwarted. The reason: global warming. Due to changes in climate, droughts in developing areas of the world—such Africa and Asia—are likely to affect crop yields. It is estimated that by 2050, unless current trends are changed, per capita consumption of cereals will fall by one-fifth leaving 25 million additional children malnourished. These findings are quite startling. Global human development has increased ever since the data has been collected. As is being shown though, this development has been partly fudged. Attaining a higher standard of living has been reached in part by pushing costs unto future generations. Now, those future generations are in sight. And those who are most likely to pay those costs are the ones who are on the lowest rung of the global social hierarchy.

Matters become even more bleak when we expand our circle of concern outside of humanity. When doing so we find that the dire affects of global warming are not in the near future, but happening right now. Because of rising temperatures, ocean levels are becoming more acidic. Ocean pH has slipped from 8.2 to 8.1 and is expected to reach 7.8 by the end of the century. This increasing acidity is having a devastating affect on all aspects of sea life. Shellfish have trouble making thick enough shells and coral reefs are in decline. The Arctic too is being affected. In 2008, polar bears were considered threaten—but not endangered—by the Bush Administration. At the time, Dirk Kempthorne, Interior Secretary for President Bush, noted "Polar bears are one of nature's ultimate survivors... (but their) habitat may literally be melting away."

After the announcement, Kempthorne was quick to acknowledge that the neither the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had the authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Supposedly, that authority was given to the Environmental Protection Agency in 2007, when the Supreme Court rule in *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency* that greenhouse gases could be considered a form of air pollution under the Clean Air Act. So far though, the EPA has been reluctant to move on its new regulatory powers. It appears that the agency wanted to first give to Congress an opportunity to develop climate legislation.

Unfortunately, over the past two years Congress has failed miserably in this regard. On July 22 of this year, just one week after the BP oil well in the gulf had been capped, Senate majority leader Harry Reid announced that the initiative to pass a comprehensive energy bill to address global warming was dead. With the election of the Republican majority in the house, the prospect for climate legislation has become even more dim. Currently, there is not a single Republican Senator who believes in the existence of human caused global warming. Many of them agree with Republican Senator James Inhofe, former chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, when he accused global warming activists as being part of "the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people."

In the short term, the greatest hope for the cutting carbon emission is a strong international treaty to be negotiated in Cancun, Mexico later this year. Already activists from around the world are preparing to converge on the city in order to pressure delegates to come to a binding agreement on carbon cuts. Also planned is an "Alternative Global Forum for Life and Environmental and Social Justice" where participants will proposal their own global environmental agenda. But, any hopefulness on influencing the delegates in Cancun must be tempered with a sense of realism. Much of the world is looking for the United States for leadership on the issue. Currently, the United States is the second largest carbon emitter in the world, right behind China. China's emissions are somewhat forgiven intentionally because they are a developing nations—and it has been acknowledged that developed nations should have greater responsibility in cutting carbon emissions. Developing nations, under current modes of production, need to pass through a period of heavy carbon emission before they have the infrastructure to convert to a post-scarcity green economy. Originally, that position was supported by the United States. Specifically by former president George H.W. Bush, who in his 20th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing speech reminded Americans that "environmental destruction knows no borders. A major national and international initiative is needed to seek new solutions for... global warming." Today, China's development strategy is used as an excuse for American lawmakers to neglect their own carbon cutting responsibilities—with President Barack Obama being especially guilty in this regard. Since no serious domestic laws have been passed on cutting carbon emissions, nor is it likely there will be one in the near future (a fact Republican campaign manager Karl Rove recently celebrated) the chances are slim that negotiators would be able strike a meaningful deal. When asked why, they will probably blame China. In addition, Cancun must be understood in the shadow of the Copenhagen agreement of 2009. United Nations scientists recently calculated that even if all the countries who signed the agreement at Copenhagen were to meet their highest goals (which are voluntary) there would still be a 5 billion ton greenhouse gas gap between what countries are doing and what the science says needs to be done. Cancun does provide an opening, but it is unlikely that it will be big enough for scientists and activists to pass through it.

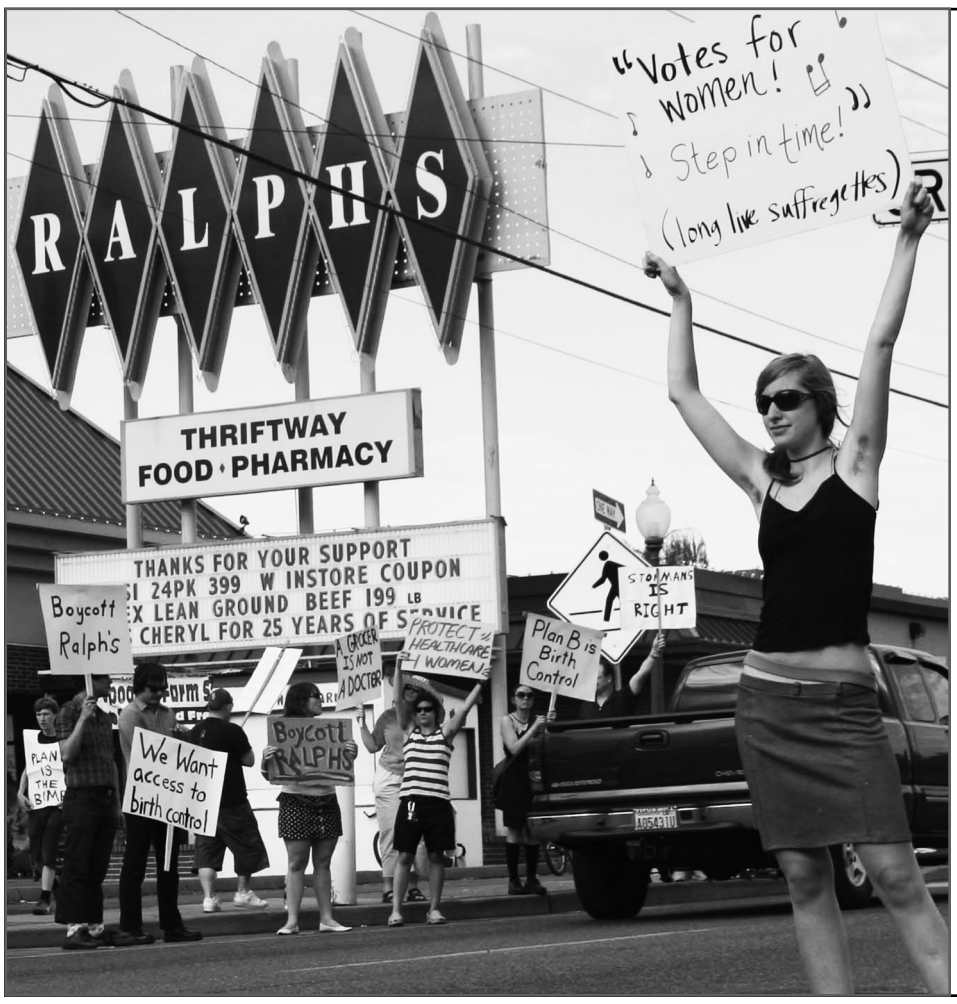
It should be no surprise that a Gallup poll from October of this year showed that currently Americans are evenly divided in the belief that global warming is caused by humans—50% in support, 46% against.

Partially, what has made it so difficult for the issue of global warming to get to the top of the political agenda is the cult of denial about global warming itself. This cult does not just concern the powers that be, rather—through a massive propaganda campaign, mostly perpetuated by neoconservative think tanks—it has recruited a large part of the American population. From 1996 to 2006, 928 peer-reviewed scientific articles were published in academic journals on global warming. Of those, none doubted that it was caused by humans. In that same time span, 636 articles appeared in the popular press in the United States. Of those 53% doubted that it was caused by humans. With this massive media attention given to the deniers, it should be no surprise that a Gallup poll from October of this year showed that currently Americans are evenly divided in the belief that global warming is caused by humans—50% in support, 46% against. Of course global warming denial and its various modifications (that it is not caused by humans, that it will end up being a good thing, that nothing can be done to stop it) are pure pseudoscience, on par with intelligent design. The fact that so many believe it reveals not only a startling disconnect between the American population and science, but the power of a corporate propaganda system. In another context, Noam Chomsky once said: "Any dictator would admire the uniformity and obedience of the U.S. media." It is hard to find an issue that makes this statement more true today than global warming.

Though there is cause for despair, it is important not to lose hope entirely. What has made the global warming debate so frustrating is that the solutions to the problem are so evident. Currently, humans consume 4.5 x 1020 joules of energy a year, 70% of which is provided by fossil fuels. Untapped energy sources from the sun is estimated at 3,000,000 x 1020 joules per year. Mark Z. Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford, as even developed models that indicate how the entire world can be powered using a combination of renewable energy sources: no fossil fuels or nuclear energy necessary. In addition, local governments are showing how a transition to a greener economy can be done. Major cities like Chicago are working on becoming the "nation's center for environmental design and the manufacturing of components for the production of alternative energy," as reported by *Time Magazine.* With pressure, these local efforts can expand eventually moving upwards to influence national policy.

This ascendant movement though is conditional on a renewed environmental movement—one that is willing to cultivate the best of both science and our sense of empathy, two characteristics often thought to be opposed to one another. Throughout history scientific discoveries and an expanding sense of empathy have had an intimate relationship with one another. It has only been through science, with its underlining faith in a reality external to the human experience, that we have been able to become aware of issues like environmental degradation—and it is our awareness of such issues that has commanded in us our deep sense of empathy, not only for the oppressed of the earth, but for the earth itself.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a graduate of the University for Peace in Costa Rica, a former resident of Olympia, and frequent contributor for Works In Progress.



Pharmacy Board steps up

December 16 -- The Washington State Pharmacy Board voted to stop the process to change its rule requiring pharmacies to dispense all legal drugs by allowing a referral process. A compromise rule was created allowing "individual pharmacists who had moral objections to pass the sale to another employee in the same store, provided the patient's order was filled without delay."

I'm very happy that the Board of Pharmacy was responsive to the public's desire to ensure timely access to emergency contraception for all Washington women. I hope this is the end and that the lawsuit against the state of Washington, Stormans v. Selecky, will be dropped. Forcing the state to spend scanty funds to defend what is clearly a popular rule is a terrible use of public resources during difficult economic times. -- Janet Blanding

▸ **DEPORTATION,** continued from page 1

Zahid: In our case, the officer in charge of the volunteer program at the Yakima Police Department was a guy named Gary Belles. If you Google him, you'll find a lot of wonderful stuff about him. Like, he's the guy who said on record that we didn't kill enough Japanese in the Second World War, and we should have killed more. And he calls all Hispanics "wetbacks," and you don't want to know his views on Muslims, or Native Americans for that matter.

There was an investigation, and small Yakima city spent about half a million dollars to protect him. That small little city has poured out so much money, just on him, to protect him and all that. Now he doesn't make those comments, but he was the judge, jury and executioner for wonderful Yakima police officer Tony Ramos. Belles is the one who fired him, he's the one who carried out the investigation, and he's the one who justified it. His friends and family had quite a deep self-serving history of hatred, and he goes to the fringe groups in Yakima County, and lies to them outright blatantly that he works for the Department of Homeland Security, and this and that. He actually brought Sheriff Mack from Graham County, Arizona, to the Yakima Convention Center, and they had a wild get-together there. I applied in the spring of 2001 and by June he made a decision that I would never be hired because I was Muslim. You see that I could not sell my blood & sweat & hard work for free because I am a Muslim, and he told everybody I would not be hired because I'm Muslim.

But after 9/11, he went to the FBI to...

Ann: He told the FBI that he would bring Zahid in for a second – a fake second employment interview. And he admitted in deposition this year it was all a ruse.

Zahid: This is his own deposition, Gary L. Belles.

[Zahid presents a bound legal document, about 200 pages long.]

It's pretty long, huh? It's nothing compared to what I was subjected to. I was interrogated for seven hours, she was interrogated for eight hours. We were separated. And when I was interrogated, "FW" – FW is a swear word in Australia – But it was Frank Wilson, who made derogatory comments about women before the interview started. In a hope that I might slightly agree with him or make any comment along those lines and he will take that out of context & run with it & blow it out of proportions to use it for my character assassination. And then he had his boots, his shoes in my face, as he was asking me questions.

Ann: Most Americans don't understand that reference.

Zahid: In the Middle East, a shoe in the face is the ultimate disrespect. So he was thinking I was Middle Eastern. These are the people who are assistant Attorney General, but they have no clue or idea. I mean, their ignorance level is shocking. I'm from Asia, not the Middle East. But he was just trying to rile me up, trying to intimidate me, trying to make me upset. He said to me, the best money he ever spent was on attorneys against his own wife, so he wanted to get me on that line, against women, and then take it and run with it, and all those things. I mean, how could somebody say such a thing, even if you loved somebody even once. And you don't love them now, but you loved somebody a long time ago, and how could one make such a derogatory statement toward that once loved one and all women in general, like Frank Wilson did just before the recording started. It was just shocking to me. They were trying all sorts of tactics to put words in mouths.

Ann: He made comments off the record during mine too, during the break. He made comments about women to the guy from Office of Immigration Litigation.

Zahid: Trial attorneys came from Washington, D.C., all the way to Yakima, just for that! From the Office of Immigration Litigation. Of course, it's a very expensive exercise for American taxpayers, just to paint us with a tar brush, or to make a very simple case complex, or to justify their crimes against us or save face. It's really now, just a face-saving exercise. Jesus was crucified because somebody had to save face. Nothing's changed.

Ann and Zahid Chaudhry, at their home in Olympia - Photo by Berd Whitlock

So, you were interrogated as well as Zahid?

Ann: Yes, I was interrogated by the FBI at my work. They came and they flashed their badges very quickly, and that's not something you expect, to have people show up at your job flashing badges and such, intimidating the other workers. And they said "Well, you know why we're here." And I said, "No, I don't." I assumed that because, at my position at the fairgrounds, I handled payroll and various different things, and preliminary tax forms for the fairgrounds. I thought it had something to do with where I worked, you know. And then it turned out to be about Zahid, and they were asking all sorts of weird questions & putting words in my mouth. They wanted our computer, and I said "No, I don't think so." Like Zahid said, they had all sorts of weird questions, and they were very intimidating. Especially Agent David Hendricks said "Well, you know they don't let him near any weapons," and I sort of laughed to myself, because Zahid had jut telephoned me and told me it was going to be a long day & long night, because he was the guard at the arms room.

Zahid: At the arms room. I would call her on the weekend and she would say "What are you doing?" And I would say, I'm guarding the arms this weekend. So...

Ann: And now David Hendricks is saying "Well, they don't let him near any weapons." Riiiiiight.

Zahid: So bluffs and lies, all along. Our justice system, judges have said it's okay for *them* to lie, but *you* cannot even make a slightest mistake; that would be a Federal felony.

At the same time as fighting against deportation attempts, you continued applying for citizenship?

Zahid: We did all that, and then our name was in the endless name check loop over and over. We got all the excuses, hurdles and delaying tactics you're given for a very long time. Eventually, we filed a suit against the government to make it right.

Ann: A writ of Mandamus. We started hearing about others who were also having that same type of problem, and this was a remedial action that was being tried in order to get that through that process. And because, what we learned was that the government was delaying by not giving the citizenship test, or the civics test, the questionnaire. As long as they didn't do that, as long as they did not give that test, they were not held to any timeline. Once that test is given, they have 120 days in which to make a decision. But as long as they can keep people over and over again in a name-check loop indefinitely, unless somebody pushes the issue.

Zahid: After a delay of some years, they eventually gave me the citizenship test, on U.S. history and everything else. And of course I aced it 100%. So ... yeah.

Ann: But they ended up denying him anyway.

Zahid: No, they denied it. It was tit-for-tat because I sued them. Before that, I was a legal permanent resident, and I could live here, but I could not be a citizen. I couldn't vote or run for office. So, just to teach me a lesson or something. We're talking about self-serving bureaucrats – selfish and self-centered. That's what they did. They said, okay, we're going to deny you and put you into deportation proceedings. What for?

The case is very simple. The facts are very simple. But sometimes, self-serving bureaucrats have to make it very complex. They sent people from O.I.L., trial attorneys paid very well by the American taxpayers. They sent trial attorneys all the way from Washington, D.C., trying to do a witch hunt, or trying to make the case as complex as possible, or trying to paint us with a tar brush. And that shows their desperation. So desperate to do the wrong thing, but they're not so inclined to do the right thing.

People say, do you consider yourself a victim? No, I am not the victim. If there is a victim, it is the American public, and their tax dollars wasted to carry out injustice.

People say, do you consider yourself a victim? No, I am not the victim. If there is a victim, it is the American public, and their tax dollars wasted to carry out injustice.

Do you think there's any racism involved in their campaign to deport you?

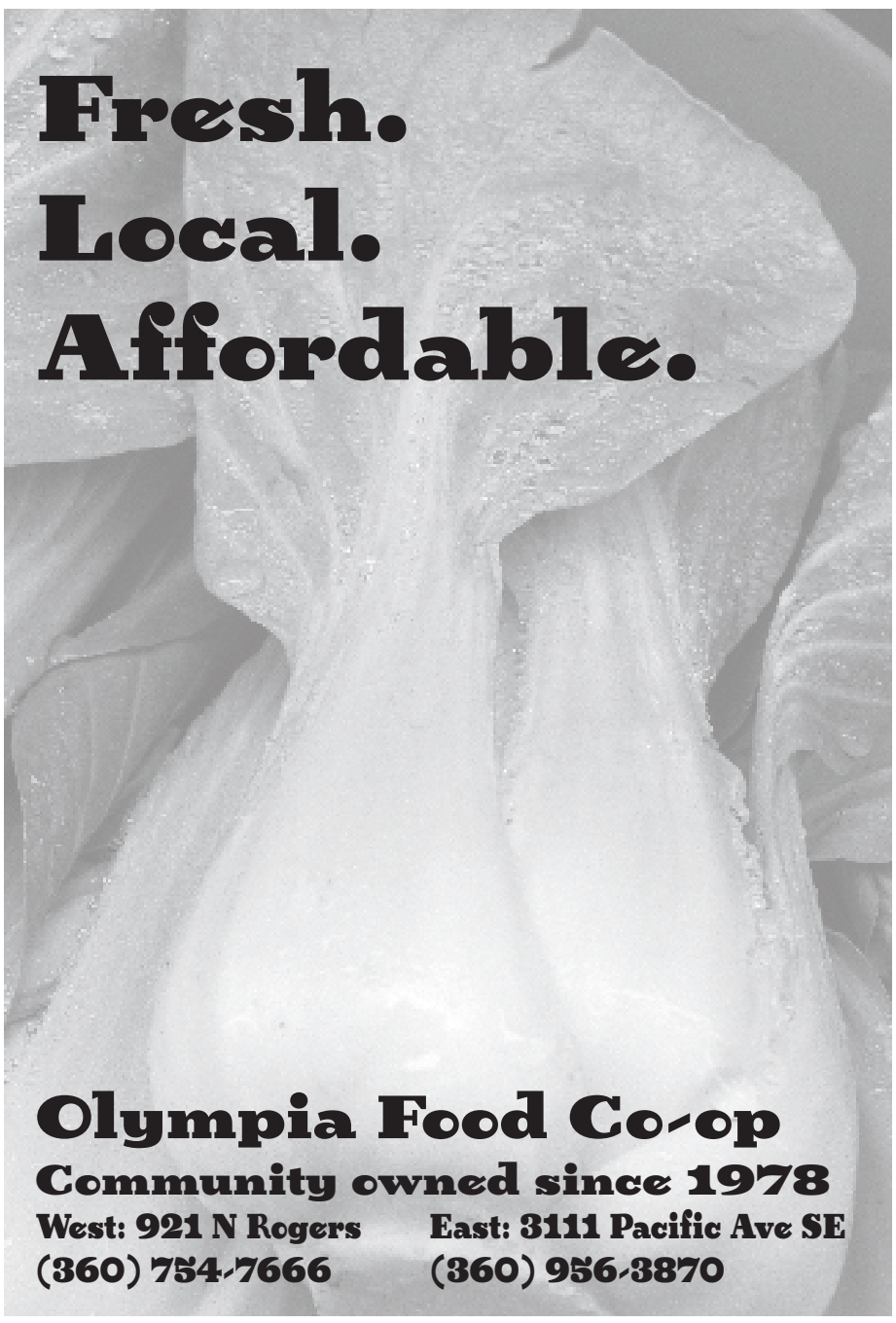
Ann: A loaded question. If it walks like a duck, it quacks like a duck, and it looks like a duck, chances are it's probably a duck.

Zahid: My wife reminds me constantly these days, if we were not living in Eastern Washington, and if there was no person named Gary Belles, we would not be in the situation we were in. That's at the heart of the matter. The Northwest Immigration Rights Project executive director, Matt Adams, said in October 2009, that on the surface it looks like they're trying to find all sorts of excuses to deny citizenship. He has never heard, in all his history of doing immigration that somebody's employment application was looked into.

Most of the people who work for immigration are very nice, very decent people. It is just some people who are pushed by other people who are not even working for Immigration, like Gary Belles, who pushed FBI, who pushed Immigration, who pushed airport security, who pushed IRS, and stuff like that. That's how it is.

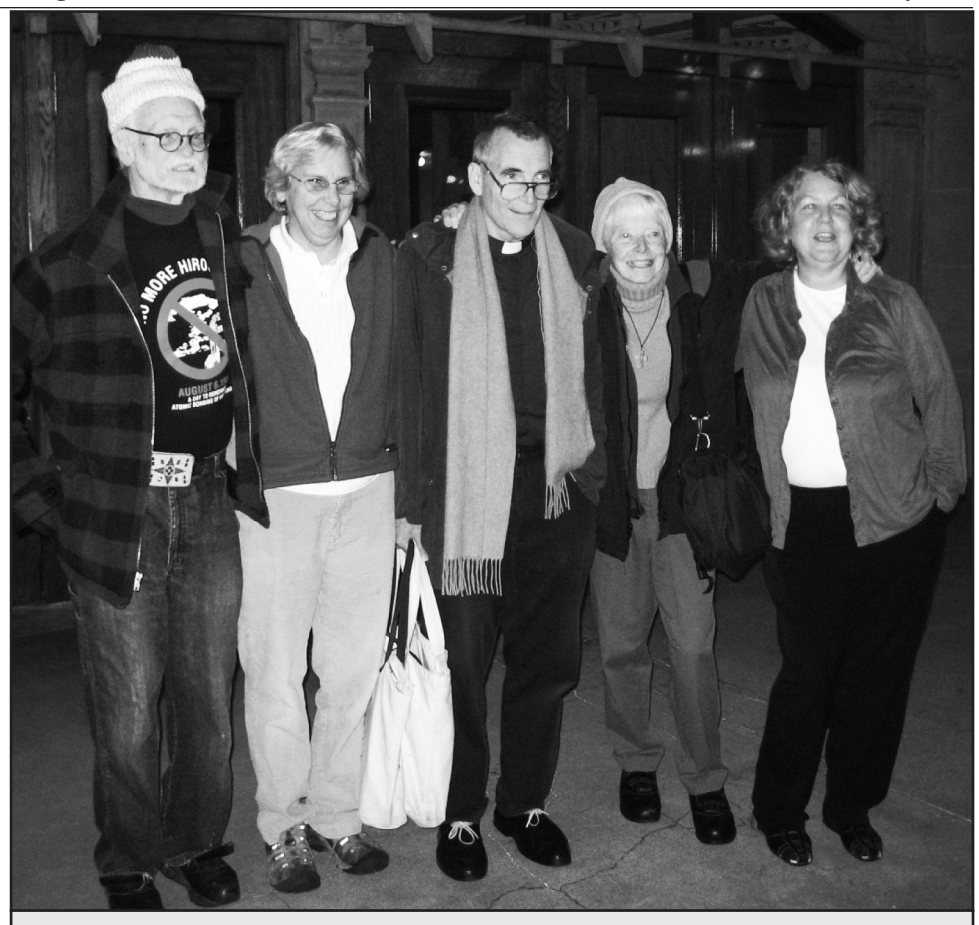
Just imagine in your mind, a scenario where Gary Belles' has cheated on his taxes, and he goes to the IRS office, and he's talking to somebody higher up, and he goes "Hey, you're giving me a hard time! I'm Gary Belles! I work for the Department of Homeland Security! And there's this terrorist living in my town, go over his taxes and blahblahblahblahblah." So now the IRS has to look into it. In this case, Gary Belles has successfully shifted the focus from him to us. So whenever the light is shining on Gary

▸ **CITIZENSHIP,** continued on page 16



Disarm now

Plowshares defendants convicted on all counts



From left: Bix, Susan, Steve, Anne and Lynne

The following is a day by day account of the December trial of Disarm Now Plowshares co-defendants Bill "Bix" Bichsel, SJ, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Steve Kelly, SJ, and Anne Montgomery, RSCJ. (SJ is the Society of Jesus, and RSCJ is the Society of the Sacred Heart, both religious orders.) They faced charges of Conspiracy, Trespass, Destruction of Property on a Naval Installation and Depredation of Government Property for their November 2, 2009 actions at the Bangor, Washington naval base to symbolically disarm the nuclear weapons stored there, and expose the illegality of the government's continued preparations for nuclear war.

Background

The five admitted from the start that they cut through the chain link fence surrounding the Navy base at Bangor, during the night of the Feast of All Souls, November 2, 2009. They then walked undetected for hours nearly four miles inside the base to the Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific (SWFPAC). This top security area is where the Plowshares activists say hundreds of nuclear missiles are stored in bunkers. There, they cut through two more barbed wire fences and went inside. They put up two big banners which said "Disarm Now Plowshares: Trident Illegal and Immoral," scattered sunflower seeds, and prayed until they were arrested at dawn. Once arrested, the five were cuffed and hooded with sand bags because the marine in charge testified "when we secure prisoners anywhere in Iraq or Afghanistan we hood them...so we did it to them."

The eight Trident nuclear submarines home ported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor each carry 24 Trident D-5 nuclear missiles. Each missile carries up to eight warheads, each one having an explosive yield of up to 475 kilotons, over 30 times the destructive force of the weapon dropped on Hiroshima.

Additionally, Bangor is home to SWFPAC where nuclear warheads are stored ready for deployment. Located just 20 miles west of Seattle, it is home to the largest single stockpile of nuclear warheads in the U.S. arsenal, housing more than 2000 nuclear warheads.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the 2,364 nuclear warheads at Bangor are approximately 24 percent of the entire U.S. arsenal, more than the combined nuclear warheads than China, France, Israel, India, North Korea and Pakistan.

December 7, 2010 - Tacoma, WA

Plowshares activists were in court for the first day of their trial for entering a U.S. Navy nuclear weapons storage depot. The peace activists represented themselves, with lawyers as standby counsel.

During the morning's jury selection there was an animated discussion. The U.S. Attorney asked if considerations of the defendants health and age, or the fact that they might be priests or nuns would hamper their ability to render an impartial judgement.

Defendant Susan Crane started her voir dire questions by asking, "Would you have convicted Rosa Parks?" One prospective juror answered that she was not asked to judge the integrity of the law; it is not like the movies or TV. Another answered, "I totally respect the rule of law, but some laws are meant to be broken, and that is how laws are changed. It is written: 'Thou shalt not kill,' and it doesn't say there are some conditions under which you would be able to kill."

Another prospective juror, who is herself a lawyer, called Parks "courageous", and said she would feel "conflicted" if asked to come to a verdict on her case. There are the facts of the case, she said, and then "there are things in our society that are just wrong. It would be very difficult for me."

Opening statements began after the lunch recess. The U.S. Attorney Arlen Storm's first words were, "This is a case about trespass and damaging government property." The defendants have a different perspective.

A prospective juror, who is herself a lawyer, called Rosa Parks "courageous," and said she would feel "conflicted" if asked to come to a verdict on her case.

Susan Crane started off her opening statement by introducing the defendants and all the humanitarian work they have done in Tacoma and around the world. She then focused on the three central pillars of their defense: the nuclear weapons at SWFPAC are horrendous; they are illegal; it is our duty as citizens to resist them.

The jury listened attentively as Crane described the medical and environmental effects of nuclear weapons. She tried to convey to the jury that the use and threatened use of nuclear weapons is a war crime, and was interrupted as the prosecutor objected to the reference to international law. Crane replied, "Although I'm not a lawyer, I'm a citizen and I'm responsible to know the law."

In his opening statement, Father Bichsel's voice shook with emotion as he described his experience in Japan hearing the stories of survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He said the greatest gift he brought back from his visit was the commission to "please get rid of these nuclear weapons."

Bichsel explained the Disarm Now Plowshares state of mind as they entered SWFPAC, where lethal force is authorized. They went "in solidarity with half the people in our world, who are living under authorized lethal force - without food, without housing, without education, without the possibility of employment. The things that they live under - it's lethal force. And it's authorized, it's not just happenstance that they are living that way. It doesn't have to be that way, and we have the power to change it."

In his opening statement Bichsel also explained how the consciences of Disarm Now Plowshares have been formed by the people they hope to call as expert witnesses in the coming days: Steven Leeper, Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Angie Zelter, Scottish Plowshares activist and founder of Trident Ploughshares; Dr. David Hall, former president of the Washington State chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility; and Retired Colonel Ann Wright, who resigned from the State Department over the U.S. led invasion of Iraq.

December 8, 2010

Before bringing in the jury, Judge Benjamin Settle took up the subject of judicial notice of nuclear weapons at Bangor, stating that the defense was relying on three documents to confirm the presence of nuclear weapons at Bangor and SWFPAC.

After the defense introduced an additional document they believed to confirm the presence of nuclear weapons at SWFPAC, the prosecution offered a stipulation regarding nuclear weapons at Bangor. The government will neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at Bangor. It is prohibited to do so. They will only say that Bangor has the capability to service nuclear missiles. The defense can say they thought there were nuclear weapons there, but the government will neither confirm nor deny that, and that is as far as they can go.

Judge Settle stated that nothing in the documents supplied by the defense confirms the presence of nuclear weapons at Bangor.

The judge then stated the facts accepted by the court: that nuclear weapons exist, that the Navy has fourteen SSBN's in operation, that the Trident was designed to carry nuclear weapons, and that Bangor is home port of eight Trident submarines. The defense will limit its questions to these four facts, whether or not there is evidence of nuclear weapons at Bangor, claiming that this is not pertinent to the issues before the court. Judge Settle then provided the defense with specific questions they may ask.

The defense objected to the limited questions allowed by Judge Settle, but were overruled. Judge Settle stated that the court has taken great care to protect the highly classified nature of Bangor operations.

The jury was brought into the courtroom and the prosecution began to present its case. The government's witnesses included an officer from the Navy NW Regional Police Department, a funding and facilities manager at Bangor, a Marine who was part of the security detail on the day of the Plowshares action, a member of the Navy security response team, and an investigator with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service Counterterrorism Unit.

In her cross examination of Naval Petty Officer Austin Wilchek, Anne Montgomery, RSCJ asked, "In any of your training were you given military regulations that prohibit the indiscriminate killing of civilians?" The prosecution objected that the question was irrelevant, to which Montgomery retorted, "Well, it was very important to us."

In its examination of witnesses the prosecution paid great attention to the physical details of the case. Craig Spencer, an investigator with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service Counterterrorism Unit, was asked about the width and height of the opening cut in the outer fence, as well as the use of twist ties to close the opening.

On the other hand, the defense focused on questions of a more universal nature. Do nuclear weapons exist? Has the United States developed submarines intended to carry nuclear weapons? Are there any of those submarines in the vicinity of the base where you work? Did the base have nuclear-armed submarines on the day in question?

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

Call to organize for Spring Equinox 2011

"At trial, the Disarm Now Plowshares [defendants] were prohibited from raising any evidence about the facts of the Trident and the international, national and military law which prohibits any planning, preparation, threat or use of such a weapon of mass destruction. Similarly, no evidence, which would go to the reasonableness or the lawfulness of their actions, was permitted. The court's prohibition against any "international law" evidence exhibits a woeful ignorance of the prohibitions embodied in the rules and principles of humanitarian law, US war crimes and genocide statutes and military law."

"Our task as organizers and lawyers before sentencing of the Disarm Now Plowshares scheduled for March 28, 2011 is to continue to insist on good-faith negotiations to institutionalize the process of end to refurbishment and deployment as part of a transparent disarmament process. As part of that process we must dream up ways to ensure that the court can acknowledge the honest and exemplary behavior of the Disarm Now Plowshares. We think that can happen only with hundreds of us gathered to discuss and plan proper non-violent resolutions of these issues in Tacoma/Bangor in March. As we come to the Solstice of 2010, let's organize for the Equinox of 2011."

-- International law expert, Anabel Dwyer

By this line of questioning the defense hoped to create an opening for the jury to base its verdict on a set of laws that is broader in scope than mere trespass and property damage.

Steve Kelly, SJ asked Spencer, "Are you aware of Trident's capacity for mass destruction?" "No, I'm not aware of what it can and cannot do," replied Spencer. Kelly then asked, "If you knew of a crime being committed, a law that was being broken on the base, would you be alarmed?" Spencer replied simply, "I would investigate."

December 9, 2010

In a packed courtroom the trial of the Disarm Now Plowshares went into its third day with the prosecution resting and the defense making its case.

The government's line of questioning continued to document the damage and the associated financial costs to its facilities and fences at SWFPAC.

In cross examination both Susan Crane and Bill Bichsel introduced situations in which fences are illegal. Crane said to Jason Stark who was in charge of repairing the SWFPAC fence alarm system, "I was thinking in Germany in WWII there were concentration camps and fences around them." She asked Stark how he would feel about taking care of fences like that.

Anne Montgomery, RSCJ invited the jury and all present in the courtroom to join in community to abolish nuclear weapons. "We felt that we could show a way for people who feel isolated and helpless, show that we are vulnerable too, we are afraid, but we had hope, walked through that to find freedom from the prison of fear and isolation."

The first defense witness was Scottish Trident Ploughshares activist Angie Zelter, who has been acquitted for Ploughshares actions in Scotland. In response to the question of whether she and the defendants share a sense of urgency about nuclear weapons, she answered, "Yes. We have had conversations about the number of accidents and how nuclear weapons are proliferating. The US and UK expect others to not have nuclear weapons and are still relying on them themselves. Yes, it felt very urgent."

The next witness was Steven Leeper, Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. Lerper told the jury, "the world is facing a critical moment" because of the existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons. Though prohibited from testifying about the details of the death, destruction, and genetic damage to civilians from the US nuclear attack on Hiroshima, he testified defendants "have a tremendous amount of support in Hiroshima." When asked if he had encouraged the Disarm Now Plowshares defendants in any way he said, "Yes, I told them, 'Do anything you possibly can to bring this to the consciousness of the world, because Americans more than any other people in the world are unconscious of what's going on.' "

Captain Tom Rogers, Retired, is a 31 year career naval officer who commanded nuclear submarines for three years during the Cold War. He said that if he as commander was ever ordered to launch strategic nuclear missiles, this would be contrary to what he knows of the laws of armed conflict, which state that a commander is responsible for following the rules of humanitarian law. "That commanding officer is powerless, and that's an awful feeling."

Dr. David Hall is board member and former President of the Washington State Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. When asked his impression of Disarm Now Plowshares, Hall said, "I'm very impressed with the humanitarian core of your motive." When asked what his understanding of what those core beliefs are he answered, "Life is sacred. Above all else, do no harm."

Michael Honey holds the Fred T. and Dorothy G. Haley Endowed Professorship in the Humanities at the University of Washington, Tacoma. When asked if Bill Bichsel is making a difference he said, "He doesn't let silence prevail. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. You must speak out. The whole history of social justice is built on that."

Each night after trial there was a potluck gathering with the members of Disarm Now Plowshares and distinguished speakers. On this night, the speaker was Anabel Dwyer, Member of the Board of Directors of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy and probono advisory legal counsel to Disarm Now Plowshares. In her talk she said that no one has the authority to commission, build, deploy, or use weapons of mass destruction. Members of Disarm Now Plowshares are exposing war crimes committed at Bangor, and the jury should convict the real criminals.

December 10, 2010

The Judge has sent the jury to deliberate on the fate of the 5 Disarm Now Plowshares defendants. The courtroom was once again packed this morning and after lunch.

How the jury will rule is anybody's guess. We can only hope and pray that they will see more than that which the government would have them see.

December 13, 2010

The federal criminal trial of five veteran peace activists that began December 7 ended with the jury finding them guilty on all counts.

Prosecutors successfully objected to and excluded most of the defense evidence about the horrific effects of nuclear weapons, the illegality of nuclear weapons under U.S. treaty agreements and humanitarian law, and the right of citizens to try to stop war crimes by their government.

There were many indications that the jury found it difficult to convict the Disarm Now Plowshares defendants. Jury questions, facial expressions, body language and post-trial conversations all gave this impression. One of the jurors said that from what he could tell, no one was ready to convict right away.

After the verdict was read and the Judge Settle was about to dismiss the jury, Steve Kelly, SJ stood and announced that the defendants would like to bless the jury. Steve and all of his co-defendants stood with their hands raised in blessing as he said, "May you go in peace and have a safe, happy holiday."

Sentencing is scheduled for March 28, 2011 at 9:00 am.

For more information on the trial and the Plowshares peace activists go to:

disarmnowplowshares.com

www.gzcenter.org/index.html

Undocumented immigrant border deaths hit record high in Arizona

A record number of bodies have been found near Tucson along the US/Mexico border "suggesting that border crossings for illegal immigrants are becoming deadlier as heightened security forces migrants into remoter and more forbidding areas." Though "authorities report there are fewer border crossings overall, the 252 bodies recovered surpassed the previous record of 237 in fiscal 2007."

Because the border is fortified with manpower and high-tech surveillance, smugglers do whatever it takes to get their human cargo into the country and collect profits – including going into far-flung regions. "There, they sometimes abandon sick or weary border-crossers who can't keep up with a group."

Raquel Rubio Goldsmith, coordinator of the Binational Migration Institute at the University of Arizona, stated to the Christian Science Monitor, "It's ridiculous that anybody has to die on that border.... We have to find some rational way to go about this. If they were able to sit down and negotiate NAFTA, they're able to sit down and negotiate immigration."

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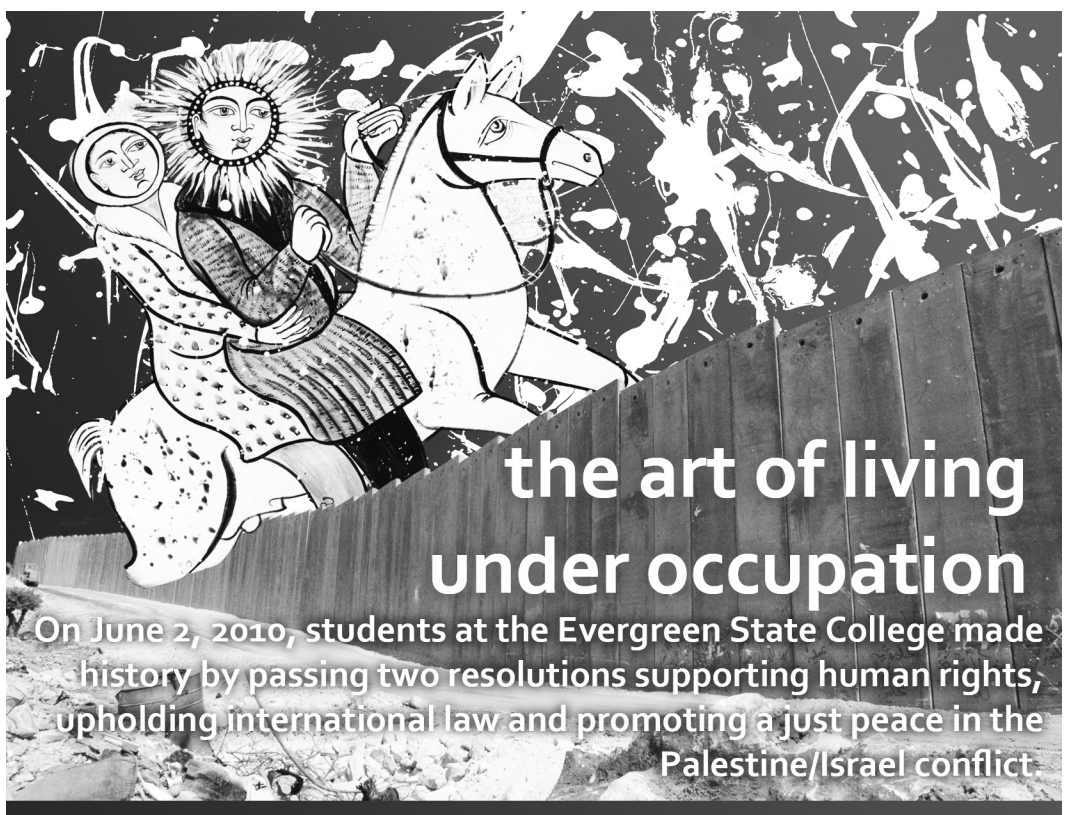
the art of living under occupation
On June 2, 2010, students at the Evergreen State College made history by passing two resolutions supporting human rights, upholding international law and promoting a just peace in the Palestine/Israel conflict.

The first resolution calls for The Evergreen State College Foundation to divest from companies that profit from Israel's Illegal occupation of Palestine, as part of instituting a socially responsible investment policy.

The second resolution calls on the College to ban the use of Caterpillar, Inc. equipment from campus.

The resolutions passed overwhelmingly, with 79.5% of participating students voting for the divestment resolution and 71.8% voting for the caterpillar resolution. **This election marked the largest student voter turnout since the creation of Evergreen's student union!** However, because the initiatives are non-binding, they ultimately need the approval of the Board of Governors of the Evergreen Foundation. Unfortunetly, previous divestment initiaves have consistently been dismissed. The student vote gives the foundatipon a mandate. ***Is Evergreen still committed to sustainability, progressive education and social justice? We believe that it is, which is why we need your help.*** In making sure that the Board of Governors honors the voice of the students, we need the support of Evergreen community members, friends of the college and alumni.

Will you stand with the students of Evergreen and offer your support?

▸ **WIKILEAKS,** continued from page 1

of whatever documents they deemed "sensitive." Often, applicants would receive whole pages of endless black bars. And as it has since been discovered, this privilege of secrecy has been abused to withhold information not sensitive to "national security" (as it is commonly defined), but information unflattering to individuals in power. Another ironic flaw is that, while FoIA was expanded to address COINTELPRO, nobody could have requested documents on COINTELPRO because nobody knew "COINTELPRO" by that name even existed.

The actions of the Citizens' Commission were perfectly tailored to their era. However, the rise of the surveillance state ensured that the days of heisting your local FBI office had long since passed, or so it was thought. But now, the growth of information technologies – many of which are still largely undefined in their potential applications (as well as their vulnerabilities) – has brought this era back, bigger than ever. And while Daniel Ellsberg had to Xerox each and every one of the Pentagon Papers by hand, now whistleblowers can download reams upon reams of "sensitive" documents onto a small thumb drive in seconds (or, as in the case of Bradley Manning, burn them onto a mock-up of a Lady Gaga CD).

As creative individuals and collectives continue to explore the potential uses of the Internet and related technologies, thus shaping the face of the still-budding Information Age, so too do they shape the landscape on which wars of information are waged, and the tools and tactics with which the battles are fought. And the last 30 days have been, perhaps, the most pivotal 30 days ever in setting the tone for what's to come.

Proving ground

While WikiLeaks was not the first website to publish government documents, it has come to define the genre. In April 2010, the site rose to prominence through the release of the "Collateral Murder" video from 2007, showing U.S. helicopter pilots in Iraq killing targets, civilians, and even *Reuters* journalists indiscriminately. (*Reuters* had requested that video through the FoIA, but was unsuccessful.)

In July, WikiLeaks published the "Afghan War Diary" – 75,000 documents (with more pending) - which at the time was the largest ever leak of classified government documents in U.S. history. In October, the release of the 391,832-paper "Iraq War Logs" broke that record. And in November, WikiLeaks broadened the scope, by releasing the first set of a 251,287-document cache of U.S. State Department communication cables. At the current rate of about 80 documents a day, the "Diplomatic Cables" releases will provide new revelations on geopolitics every week from now through July 4, 2019. (Let's hope they find more vetting volunteers and pick up that pace a little.)

In two weeks time, over 2000 complete duplicates of WikiLeaks sprang up across the Internet, and across the globe. These mirror-sites are routinely updated by the central organizing core of WikiLeaks, independent of Julian Assange.

More than the other releases, the Diplomatic Cables compelled our first significant discussion on unauthorized publication of classified material in the public sphere in decades. Having crossed that bridge, the future of whistleblowing in the Information Age would depend on this one battle. Would it be seen as dangerous and fruitless? Or would democracy and the freedom of information prevail?

Public discourse

WikiLeaks quickly garnered a broad range of support, from people as diverse as Daniel Ellsberg, Republican Congresspeople Ron Paul and Connie Mack, and President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez. A staff editorial in the *Atlantic* wrote, in part, "Wikileaks is a powerful new way for reporters and human rights advocates to leverage global information technology systems to break the heavy veil of government and corporate secrecy that is slowly suffocating the American press." On the other hand, condemnation of WikiLeaks by some has been sharp. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the release was "an attack on America's foreign policy" and "the international community," while Congressperson Peter King said WikiLeaks should be labeled a terrorist organization. Newt Gingrich called WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange an "enemy combatant," and former Nixon aide G. Gordon Liddy said Assange should be put on a "kill list."

As in many conflicts, when the first salvo was fired depends on your perspective. Those who defend tyranny and government secrecy surely see WikiLeaks' publication of these files as the opening volley against authority, and the ensuing repression as an inevitable response. However, for those of us who value accountability and courageous journalism, the first shot was fired on December 1, when Amazon suspended service for WikiLeaks hosting on its servers.

WikiLeaks had already been forced to relocate to Amazon from its original hosting due to ongoing "denial-of-service" attacks, a phenomenon common to politically-charged websites. But in dropping WikiLeaks, Amazon made it clear the decision was not based on technical concerns. Instead, Amazon cited a number of highly specious political arguments, including the implication that human rights groups have condemned WikiLeaks' actions. (In fact, only one human rights-related criticism has been levied – that civilians' names may not be adequately redacted; otherwise, WikiLeaks enjoys universal support from human rights groups, including awards.) The world learned about Amazon's maneuver when Senator Joe Lieberman first bragged that the company had dropped WikiLeaks, which it turns out happened not long after one of his aides had contacted the company.

Amazon was the first domino in a chain of corporate isolation of WikiLeaks. PayPal suspended WikiLeaks' account, claiming that they were engaged in "illegal activity." The Swiss bank PostFinance followed suit, and later on, Bank of America, MasterCard and Visa all announced they would not process any transactions believed to be intended for WikiLeaks. Apple removed a WikiLeaks application from its App Store. Even Tableau Software withdrew WikiLeaks' license to use its graphing software. It was also no secret that various world governments – including the United States, China, France and Australia – were directly involved in efforts to isolate WikiLeaks from online services.

The result was, successive channels of funding were all frozen, and WikiLeaks had lost use of its trademark domain name "www.wikileaks.org." These are the traditional tools of people in power in their war on information: intimidate the source, divide them from their support base, sever them from their resources, and lastly, suppress the service they provide.

Although this was all very disappointing for WikiLeaks supporters worldwide, it should come as no surprise. Corporations may be as ubiquitous as the government, and often more powerful, but they've never claimed to champion free speech – except for their own right to lie to the public. Still, the justifications provided, that WikiLeaks' activity was "illegal" or "subversive," and agents of the government pursuing this isolation on those terms, is especially chilling. WikiLeaks is innocent, if for no other reason, because they have not yet been proven guilty in court. And unlike the Citizens' Commission, nobody is contending WikiLeaks broke into any secured area to steal these files; the files were provided to them, and having analyzed them, they've now begun providing them to the public in accordance with the public's need to know, as respectable journalists.

In the traditional venue, there was little ordinary people of good conscience could do about these maneuverings. A lawsuit would take years, and the burden of proof would be on the plaintiff. The law in a capitalist society protects the right of corporations to provide their services discriminately, even when an effective cartel prohibits access to those services for someone across the board. The public good doesn't come into that equation, especially when that public good is in stark contrast to both government and private enterprise. Traditionally, the status quo is mutually reinforcing.

However, this battle of information was far from "traditional."

Guerilla tactics

Concurrent to the fight for logistics, an innovative form of Internet conflict was being waged. The primary weapon in this conflict was "distributed denial of service," or DDoS. DDoS is an updated version of a "black fax" campaign, in which the fax machine of an offending agency is flooded with as many all-black faxes as possible. (Maybe some of those fully-redacted FoIA documents were put to good use). With DDoS, several hundred computers can simultaneously

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The Pirate Party

In the fight to stay alive on the Internet, WikiLeaks gained the support of another victim of United States' hegemonic suppression: the Internet piracy movement. When "distributed denial of service" (DDoS) attacks forced website-hosting service EveryDNS to drop WikiLeaks as a client, the Swiss chapter of the "Pirate Party" stepped up to fill the void.

The Pirate Party is a political party formed around opposition to growing government crackdowns on Internet piracy. There isn't any confusion that the use of government power to weigh down on people and websites involved in sharing movies, music, software and other copyrighted material over the Internet is done in service to capitalist interests. It's also known that many crackdowns are conducted under the direct guidance of such organizations as the Motion Picture Association of America and the Recording Industry Association of America. The Pirate Party, operating in several countries (including the U.S.), acts as a counterbalance, advocating for shorter copyright lifespans, expanded "fair use" exemptions, and an end to government suppression of piracy-related free speech.

The Pirate Party is not directly affiliated with the Internet group "Anonymous," though many of their goals are the same. While Anonymous has countered anti-piracy crackdowns with various guerilla tactics (including DDoS campaigns, and hacking into anti-piracy websites to change their content or even post pirated music), the above-ground Pirate Party has focused on effecting change through the system. The Pirate Party draws from a popular support base which, in other countries at least, has a very negative view of copyright law and anti-piracy crackdowns.

The Internet piracy movement has been rewarded for their assistance to WikiLeaks. One of the leaked diplomatic cables revealed that the United States *wrote* a copyright law that was proposed in Spain. Another leaked cable detailed the political pressure the U.S. has been putting on Sweden for years to crack down on Internet piracy. (Sweden is home to the #1 file-sharing and bittorrent site, ThePirateBay.org.) It's believed many yet-unreleased cables also deal with the anti-piracy crackdown.

annoy a chosen website with as much garbage data as possible, overloading their system. When enough computers are involved, any website, no matter how high-profile or sophisticated, can be made inaccessible.

For years, DDoS shutdowns have been used for commercial purposes – to shut down competitors' websites, or in extortion schemes. But more recently, DDoS has become a routine occurrence in the grassroots fight over Internet piracy. The collectivist hacker group "Anonymous" has conducted several DDoS attacks against the websites of the Motion Picture Association of America, the Recording Industry Association of America, and the websites of their lawyers, all in response to anti-piracy crackdowns. Anonymous has also employed DDoS against white supremacist groups, the Church of Scientology, Hustler, the U.S. Copyright Office, and various world governments involved in Internet censorship.

As one member of Anonymous stated, "While we don't have much of an affiliation with WikiLeaks, we fight for the same reasons. We want transparency and we counter censorship. The attempts to silence WikiLeaks are long strides closer to a world where we can not say what we think and are unable to express our opinions and ideas."

Anonymous' established base of support was quickly mobilized to conduct DDoS attacks against several websites suppressing WikiLeaks. Amazon was shut down throughout Europe for close to an hour. (Amazon blamed this on "hardware failure.") Visa was also shut down for close to 2 hours, MasterCard for 7 hours, PayPal for 8 hours, and PostFinance for 11 hours. The websites for the Swedish government and the Swedish prosecutor's office were also shut down for several hours.

Unlike some other targets of Anonymous, none of these sites were actually hacked into and altered, and none of their secure data was accessed, so the attacks likely did not result in any significant financial consequences in the long-term. Nonetheless, the message was much louder than the cost, and that message was that the people do have power after all.

While DDoS can be conducted through a coordinated popular campaign, as in the case with Anonymous, it can also be done through exploitation of others' resources. A malware program can be installed on someone's computer, designed to silently conduct a function like DDoS without the user's knowledge. This program could even be made to be self-replicating. Thus, relatively few people could conduct DDoS operations using the computer power of many, against their will. It's believed this method was used for several DDoS strikes against WikiLeaks, both just prior to the release of the diplomatic cables and just after.

Nothing is stopping Anonymous from engaging in this exploitive form of DDoS as well. However, the targets they predominantly choose, and the fact that they openly solicit volunteers to run the DDoS software consensually, signify an ethos contrary to exploitation. On the other hand, nothing is also stopping the U.S. military or other government agency from conducting exploitive DDoS against WikiLeaks, though no evidence has yet surfaced to prove they have.

While DDoS is effective in shutting down a centralized establishment, it's ineffective against decentralized operations. An increased number of targets requires exponentially more resources to effectively shut them all down.

It was in this limitation that WikiLeaks found its solution. Just as momentum was highest, both in the grassroots fight to save WikiLeaks and the government campaign to shut them down, WikiLeaks organizers called on its supporters worldwide to mass-mirror the site. Anyone could add a copy of WikiLeaks to their own website, or set up a franchise (so to speak) with a new URL. In two weeks time, over 2000 mirrors of WikiLeaks sprang up across the Internet, and across the globe. These mirror-sites are routinely updated by the central organizing core of WikiLeaks, independent of its founder Julian Assange (who had been in jail during most of these updates).

Over the last several years, with the government's monopoly on information becoming more and more absolute, abuses of power have become more extreme, while justifications have become more transparent.

While this is old news to many, it bears consideration how this complicates governments' war on free information. Everything about WikiLeaks, outside of its trusted core of organizers, has now been decentralized. And much the way wide distribution of their services over thousands of locations has made WikiLeaks invulnerable to any future DDoS shutdowns, their distribution over several hundred legal jurisdictions, and several hundred webhosting services, has made them nearly invulnerable to any concentrated government campaign – at least any campaign that won't be immediately rebuked by the courts. Plus, while the services of WikiLeaks have been decentralized, so too has their information cache, protecting it from deletion as well.

It should be noted that this solution, while perfectly tailored to WikiLeaks and other sources of free speech, would do little good to businesses like PayPal or Amazon – not unless they want customers' credit card numbers and personal information strewn across the web. Mass-mirroring would also do little good for, say, the website of the Swedish Prosecutor's Office, who is unlikely to garner the same upswell of grassroots support. It's a tactic befitting popular resistance and freedom of information, and one to which a high-tech response has yet to be developed.

Meanwhile, the private sector has developed a response of its own. E-retailers have begun taking out new insurance policies for politically-motivated Internet attacks, thus insulating their profit margins from what nominal financial consequences DDoS does inflict.

Hearts and minds

Where attacks on logistics aren't enough, and where technological dominance fails to produce results, power turns its attention to the fight for *legitimacy*. And with the mainstream media relying on government spokespeople for the foundation of its coverage, WikiLeaks' opponents have unmatched capacity to craft the dominant narrative.

A common method of discrediting someone is to define them solely by one aspect of their operation, and then to characterize them as lacking depth. WikiLeaks is a multi-purpose whistleblower site, and has published leaks from various world banks and other private institutions, and is expected to publish leaks from BP and Bank of America in 2011. All leaks have been vetted prior to release. (In fact, WikiLeaks asked the State Department to aid the vetting of the diplomatic cables, to ensure individuals were not put at risk; the State Department declined their offer.) Yet, government critics have labeled them as "anarchist" and "treasonous," and as having a personal vendetta against government in particular.

Dismissal of the organization is supplemented with character assassination of the individual. Open speculation by law enforcement as to whether Assange can in fact be charged with anything at

▸ **INFORMATION,** continued on page 17

What's in a name?

"WikiLeaks" draws its name from the prefix "wiki," a term for a collaborative website. The term, derived from the Hawaiian word for "quick," was made famous by the editable encyclopedia Wikipedia, part of the Wikimedia Foundation. Originally, WikiLeaks was designed as a mutually editable compilation of information, before a necessary restructuring was made.

In the wake of the WikiLeaks releases, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has said he's received an incredible volume of e-mails attacking him for "putting the lives of thousands of US troops at risk." His response has been to "just roll my eyes, chuckle to myself and tell them they've got the wrong man."

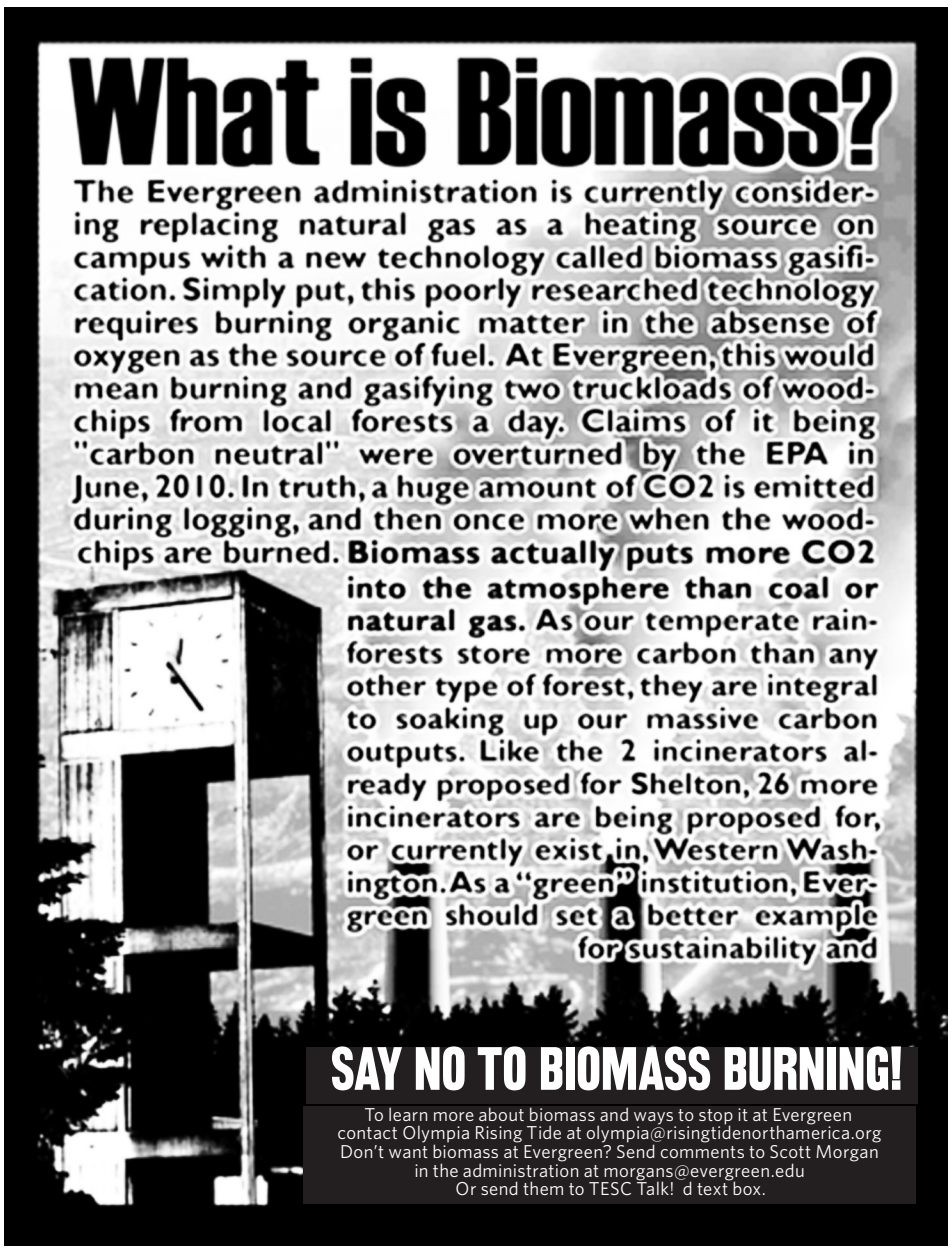
In accordance with Wikipedia's values, Wales has said that while the Wikimedia Foundation is concerned about the dilution of its "brand," they have no interest in trying to copyright the term "wiki," because to do so would inhibit others from setting up their own wiki projects.

Rally in Israel for human rights

Thousands of people attended the second annual International Human Rights Day march in Tel Aviv on Dec. 10 and dwarfed a demonstration of less than 100 right-wing counter-protesters.

"We Won't Remain Silent" t-shirts and hats were prominent as the participants marched from Rothschild Blvd. to Rabin Square. Over 130 social change organizations participated as well as many individual Israelis. Signs and banners declared the shared concerns with the erosion of democratic values, the attacks on human rights organizations and the past year's rising tide of racism. Included among the participants were many who rarely share the public stage: Bedouin from unrecognized villages, Sudanese refugees, environmental activists, and many more.

Bedouin activist Amal Asana Al-Hajaj warned, "There are currently 17 bills being passed through the Knesset which involve discrimination against minorities. This march is a response to what is happening in the Knesset."


What is Biomass?
The Evergreen administration is currently considering replacing natural gas as a heating source on campus with a new technology called biomass gasification. Simply put, this poorly researched technology requires burning organic matter in the absense of oxygen as the source of fuel. At Evergreen, this would mean burning and gasifying two truckloads of woodchips from local forests a day. Claims of it being "carbon neutral" were overturned by the EPA in June, 2010. In truth, a huge amount of CO2 is emitted during logging, and then once more when the woodchips are burned. Biomass actually puts more CO2 into the atmosphere than coal or natural gas. As our temperate rainforests store more carbon than any other type of forest, they are integral to soaking up our massive carbon outputs. Like the 2 incinerators already proposed for Shelton, 26 more incinerators are being proposed for, or currently exist in, Western Washington. As a "green" institution, Evergreen should set a better example for sustainability and
SAY NO TO BIOMASS BURNING!
To learn more about biomass and ways to stop it at Evergreen contact Olympia Rising Tide at olympia@risingtidenorthamerica.org
Don't want biomass at Evergreen? Send comments to Scott Morgan in the administration at morgans@evergreen.edu
Or send them to TESC Talk! d text box.

Adam Keller's Crazy Country

by Adam Keller

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinina state with pre-1967 borders. What follows are excerpts from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com.

Just an ordinary day

Just an ordinary day
With a blue sky
With no feast nor dance
No drum and no fife
Nothing special had happened
But Senator Mitchell has been here and gone
(Variation of Yossi Gamzu's poem)

And at the airport Senator Mitchell, envoy of US President Barack Hussien Obama and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, reiterated the United States' commitment to conduct substantive talks with the Israelis and the Palestinians in order to achieve significant progress towards signing a framework agreement between the two parties which would be the basis for a definite peace agreement which will be signed sometime. And the newspaper readers yawned and turned the page in search of more interesting news. And the settlers shrugged and continued the accelerated construction. And the Palestinians also shrugged and continued mobilizing international support for the State of Palestine, due to be declared in Auguest or September 2011, with or without an agreement. And seekers after peace, who remember very many peace processes and rounds of negotiations and international mediators, said that when someone had not been able to achieve a three months' freeze, it is up him to prove that he can truly achieve the complete dismantling of the settlements.

And meanwhile, the Knesset plenum was today in upheaval and uproar about a major contentious issue which has the potential of bringing down the government coalition. Namely: What should be the status of a young man whose mother is not Jewish, who is an Israeli citizen speaking Hebrew as well as Russian who is clearly part of the Israeli society, who enlists in the army of this Jewish Democratic state and gets sent on its behalf to the territories which it occupies, who imposes the rule of the Jewish Democratic state over people who are not Jews and have no share in Israeli democracy, who performs the dirty jobs with a high motivation and efficiency and the needed brutality. Doesn't such a young man deserve the right to call himself a Jew - no less so than do his comrades in arms, whose mothers are Jewish and who wear the very same uniform he does and perform with him the same dirty jobs with the same amount of motivation and efficiency and needed brutality?

Truth be told, most likely he does deserve it.

To The Cisterns

For love
I have gone to the cisterns
In the paths of the desert
In unsown land
For love
I have forgotten city and home
And followed you
With wild longing
To the cisterns, to the cisterns...
(Naomi Shemer)

To the ancestors who lived in this land 3,500 years ago, and from whose story Zionism drew inspiration and legitimacy, rain and its absence were quite literally issues of life and death. A rainless year was a disaster year, a year of famine, a year when, to survive, the people of the land had to flee to where food was to be had.

For the Israelis of our time, the absence of rain is an interesting subject for conversation, one of many issues which the papers deal with. "Will the water level in the Sea of Galillee fall below the Red Line?" ask the headlines, and experts are called to the TV studio to discuss the problem in detail. True, the farmers among us are a bit more directly touched. When the November rains failed to come, they started to worry and calculate the financial loss from a spoiled harvest and worry if the government's compensations would fully cover it.

But there are still people in this country whose lifestyle had not changed much in thousands of years, shepherds living in the arid land on the margins of the desert, at the Southern Hebron Hills at the edge of the West Bank. Not that even in this remote region there is any lack of pipes to bring an abundant supply of water. Israeli settlers who came to live there always have running water in their beautiful homes all year round, and green lawns which would not shame any European country, and even some swimming pools. But these pipes laid by the enlightened state of Israel are definitely not intended for the use of the Palestinian shepherds outside the settlements' barbed wire perimeters.

It was left to the shepherds to look with increasing anxiety at a sky which remained blue with no cloud, and pray for rain to come and fill the cisterns which were hewn by hard dedicated labor in the desert floor.

The rain finally did come, early this week. Not that much of the rain got there, to the shepherds who so much longed for it. In Tel Aviv the storm raged and lightning flashed and thunder boomed and luxury restaurants on the shoreline were flooded with the rising water. The remote South Hebron Hills got only some odds and ends of rain, a scattered rainfall here and there. A far cry from the really big rain needed to fill the cisterns with the water of life. But some water is better than none.

After the rain ended the military arrived, equipped with bulldozers and heavy engineering equipment. They moved systematically from one cistern to the next, demolished and destroyed them and dropped heavy rocks to completely fill them in. The bit of water which the rains of this week provided will not provide drink to the sheep. Nor to the humans.

When setting on their work of destruction - twelve cisterns in all, accounted for within a few hours - the soldiers had their weapons drawn, lest the shepherds dare to approach and interfere. "I've got a properly signed demolition order" said the officer of the Defense Forces of the enlightened state of Israel. "These cisterns were dug without a permit. The law must be enforced!"

The arrest of one youthful member of the family turns the entire family into security risks. Simple calculation shows that the "club" of detainees gets dozens of new "members" every month.

Each detainee has a family

I got the following from Buma Inbar, a bereaved father and tireless activist who spends much of his time and energy wandering the mountain paths of the West Bank and providing help and support where they are needed. He can be contacted at buma.inbar@gmail.com.

The early morning hours of a weekday. This special time when the first rays of the sun appear, accompanied by the melodious chirping of early rising birds. At such moments of grace one may quietly drink a cup of coffee, look out into the street and enjoy the sounds of the waking world, until the pastoral image fades and daily routine takes over.

Recently, my early morning hours include a new element. Every morning between five and six, there is a specific news item joining the news flashes which had been rolling through the news websites overnight. A modest, laconic news flash announcing: "Tonight IDF forces operated on the outskirts of Qalqilya, (or at the approaches to Nablus, or in the Jenin District) and arrested two suspected Palestinians (or three, or ten, or thirteen)." Invariably, the flash would end with the words "The suspects were transferred to Security Forces interrogation." By about 9 am, when the roads are already full of traffic jams, this news flash would disappear, only to come back on the following morning.

This ritual takes place every day, except on weekends and Jewish holidays. I doubt that the security forces are not active on these days. More likely it is the conscripts on duty at the IDF spokesperson's bureau who take their weekend rest and fail to issue the daily bulleting. These two or three terse sentences conceal whole worlds of meaning.

The detention of a Palestinian has many implications for family members, and not only with regard to the judicial process itself. It is not so well known that such a detention is enough to immediately put all first-degree relatives of the detainee on the list of those denied entry to Israel, on the theory that one of them might seek revenge. The arrest of one youthful member of the family turns the entire family into security risks. Simple calculation shows that the "club" of detainees gets every month dozens of new "members."

Recently, the laconic lines got – where I am concerned – a clearly human face. Earlier this year the detainees included M., the son of my acquaintance Khaled, director of the Palestinian Bereaved Families' Forum. Now also Khaled, a man who invests all his time and energy in promoting peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, is denied entry to Israel.

I would have liked to believe that none of the detainees is innocent. I would have liked to believe that none of them was tortured and that they all get a fair trial. I would so very much like to believe that the system of which I was part and whose members I appreciate and love is doing the right thing. So much I want to believe that M., who like his father took part in many dialogue and reconciliation meetings with Israelis, would be set free without his experience of detention changing him or his any of his family members.

Every time I come to take my turn at the Shalit Family Tent opposite the PM's residence in Jerusalem, I remember these news flashes and I wonder. Each of these detainees has a family. Each of them is an entire world. Some of them are teens who have not yet turned eighteen. How many of them did truly engage in terrorist activities against Israel? How many of them are truly so dangerous that there is no choice but to detain them? And the most important question - are we Israelis really aware of the impact which that small item, running among the news flashes between 5 and 6 every morning, has for our lives and our future?

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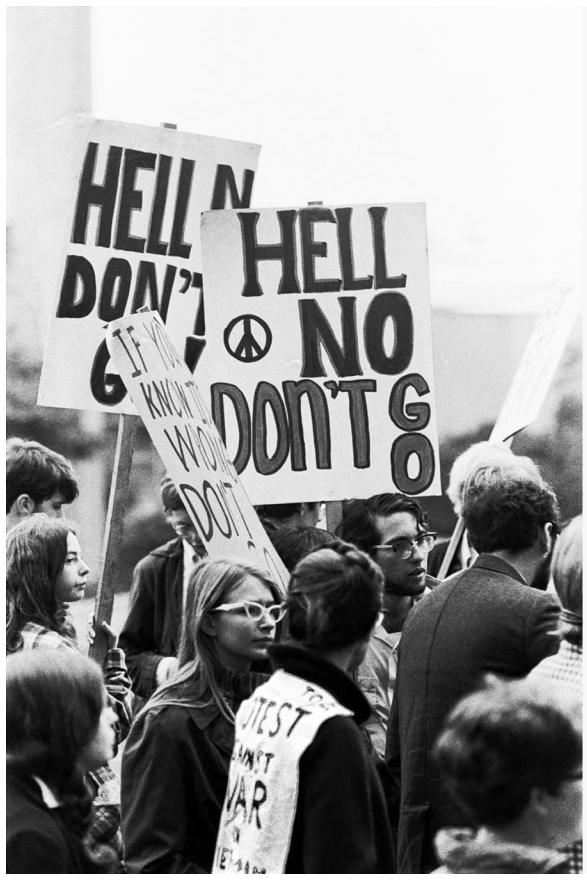

FORT LEWIS RESISTS THE WAR

Three US Army veterans discuss how they came to oppose US militarism and the War on Terror and refused to fight, and why you should support the work they do at Coffee Strong, Fort Lewis' anti-war pro-GI coffee house, advocating for GI rights, countering military recruitment, and educating the community.

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The audacity of denying the benefits of home-grown industrial hemp to the American economy

The world standard

"Hemp is the standard fiber of the world. It is used to produce more than 5,000 textile products, ranging from rope to fine laces, and the woody "hurds" remaining after the fiber has been removed contain more than seventy-seven per cent cellulose, and can be used to produce more than 25,000 products, ranging from dynamite to Cellophane." Popular Mechanics, "Billion Dollar Crop", 1938

The crop is grown in all industrialized nations except one.

European Union subsidizes industrial hemp.

Canadian farmers have been allowed to plant industrial hemp since 1998.

"Hemp was one of the first crops that Champlain planted at Port Royal and later Québec." Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance (CHTA)

Over 8,500 acres were grown in Canada in 2008. Hempfarm.org

The 2002 figures for global hemp sales were US$250 million. $150 million in the United States alone. Hempfarm.org

The U.S. is Canada's primary buyer of industrial hemp. Canadian National Industrial Hemp Strategy

"China controls about 40 percent of the world's hemp fiber." NT

The same, but different

Hemp and marijuana are different varieties of the same plant species, Cannabis sativa.

Smoking marijuana produces a "psychoactive high" while smoking industrial hemp, which contains high amounts of CBD, causes "headaches, nausea, and a heavy, stupid feeling."

"If hemp pollinates any nearby marijuana, genetically, the result will always be lower THC marijuana. Marijuana grown close to industrial hemp will produce lower-grade marijuana." North American Industrial Hemp Council (NAIHC)

"No one would hide marijuana in a hemp field. Marijuana is grown widely spaced to maximize leaves; fiber hemp is grown tightly-spaced to maximize stalk. It's also the first place the cops would look." Andy Kerr

Since Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 humping industrial hemp in with marijuana, the DEA has been unable to differentiate between the two.

It is not illegal to grow industrial hemp in the United States; the DEA just refuses to issue licenses.

It's easy to grow

Hemp is easy to grow "in a variety of climates and soil types," is "naturally resistant to most pests", and doesn't require much in the way of fertilizers.

Hemp prefers a mild climate, humid atmosphere, and a rainfall of at least 25-30 inches per year. "Industrial Hemp: A Cropping Guide For Farmers", Peter Dragla

Eastern Washington is on "the same latitude as Romania, which is a prime source for industrial hemp. " Jill Smith, EarthGoods LLC

Industrial hemp was grow on the Palouse. "Marijuana and Hemp: The Untold Story" Thomas Bouril

Better than cotton

"Hemp fibers are longer, stronger, more absorbent and more mildew-resistant than cotton." NAIHC

"Fabrics made of at least on-half hemp block the sun's UV rays more effectively than other fabrics." NAIHC

"Fifty percent of all the world's pesticides are sprayed on cotton." Hemp can replace cotton. NAIHC

Hemp is anti-microbial, anti-mildew, naturally UV resistant and readily takes on eco-safe plant-based dyes. Efforts Clothing, Ontario; BuyFabricsDirect.com

Hemp softens with each washing, without fibre degradation. As the saying goes: "Hemp doesn't wear out, it wears in." hemptraders.com

Hemp is 4 times warmer than cotton, 4 times more water absorbent, has 3 times the tensile strength of cotton. It is also many times more durable and is flame retardant. The Emperor Wears No Clothes, Jack Herer

Hemp breathes well and wicks moisture away from the body better than cotton. Efforts Clothing, Ontario

Better than wood fiber

In 100 days on one acre of land, hemp can "produce the same amount of paper" that four acres of trees produce after 30 years. U.S.D.A.

"Hemp can be pulped using less chemicals than with wood. It is naturally bright and so processing it doesn't require chlorine bleach nor produces dioxin. NAIHC

Hemp paper is stronger, acid free, has a longer shelf life, and costs less than half as much to process as tree paper. "Hemp Through History" ecomall.com

Hemp paper can be recycled 10 times whereas wood-based paper can only be recycled twice without losing integrity and requiring additional virgin fibre content. "CROPS: Cotton, Hemp, Flax and Kenaf", oldgrowthfree.co

Good for the environment

Hemp is a renewable, reusable and recyclable resource.

Hemp is the number one biomass producer on planet earth: 10 tons per acre in approximately four months.

"If hemp fibre is processed into durable, long lasting products, the carbon captured will be retained for the lifespan of the product. For these reasons, hemp could emerge as very important in addressing issues of planetary climate change by acting as a carbon sink: in both the field and in finished industrial and consumer products." CHTA

Hemp helps clean up soil by bonding heavy metals to the fibre.

Hemp actually revitalizes the soil it grows in, both by aerating the soil and through the deposit of carbon dioxide in to it.

"Hemp has also been used as a plough down or green manure crop to add organic matter to the soil." *Just Live Greener*

Why use up the forests which were centuries in the making and the mines which required ages to lay down, if we can get the equivalent of forests and mineral products in the annual growth of the fields? I know from experience that many of the raw materials of industry which are stripped from the forest and the mines can be obtained from annual crops grown on the farm. Henry Ford

Some other uses

Hemp cement, made from mixes of core fibre and minerals such as lime and sand, is superior in insulation values, strength, and breathability.

Hemp seeds are pressed for oil that can be used for food, industrial lubrication, diesel fuel, paints, varnishes and more. Hempfarm.org

Economic benefit

"Making hemp cultivation legal would funnel millions of dollars spent on imported hemp back into the ailing U.S. economy." Natural Home Magazine

Biodiesel from hemp reduces the United States' dependence on foreign petroleum.

With a North American market that exceeds $300 million in annual retail sales, industrial hemp could generate thousands of sustainable new jobs, helping America to get back on track. Dara Colwell

The bulk and weight of hemp make transportation costs high. Hemp production cannot be centralized as production needs to be decentralized. To be profiable, hemp needs to be processed within 25 to 50 miles of where it has been grown. Center for Business and Economic Research, U of Kentucky

"Restoring industrial hemp agriculture will return control to our farmers, and away from the multinational corporations that dominate our political process, usurp our economic resources, and destroy our environment." D. Paul Stanford, Hemp News

▸ **CITIZENSHIP,** continued from page 9

Belles, he tries to use other minorities to divert it, and of course he gets away with that, and he has for 27 years. His 27 year history has been nothing but a waste of taxpayer dollars. The little city of Yakima pays. And we were there, paying taxes, so we were actually paying his salary. Isn't that ironic?

Tragic would be a better word.

Zahid: Thank you, tragedy is a better word.

Did you have supporters in Yakima?

Zahid: Oh, surely! Wonderful people, lots and lots of wonderful people in Yakima. Awesome neighbors! I had the best neighbors anybody could wish for. I had the best neighbors ever. I feel and I find myself so fortunate and so lucky to have neighbors like that, so wonderful. And so many great friends. I would trust them with my life.

Unfortunately, there's a small minority that gives the whole community a bad name. Or it's a small minority that has too much power and wants more. Gary Belles wanted the police chief job so many times. He wanted a detention center for ICE to be built in Yakima so badly and, you guessed it, of course, he would have loved to have the top job.

Was it Gary Belles who put you on the no-fly list?

Zahid: Yes. He did his best to get me into as much trouble as he could. It seems to us as though the more tyranny he can cause on innocent people, he feels more righteous.

So yeah, our taxes were audited, took us seven years just for one year, and other years' taxes were also audited. Go figure where that came from. And every time I traveled, anywhere, I have no problem in the country I travel to. But my own country, which I love so much, and served, and continue to serve in different ways now, when we come back to our own country, we have problems. We get held back hours and hours, and I get asked very strange questions. Sometimes you feel they're putting words in your mouth. But this is what's been happening. Injustice is injustice, and wrong is wrong. If we accept it, it will only become more prevalent. So we need to say it's not right, and to do something about injustice, to make it right.

So eventually you ended up leaving Yakima. Could you talk about your departure?

Ann: It just became very, very clear, even before the depositions, that we... It really hit home to me last fall, last November something, when we found out that Gary Belles had gone to the Yakima county militia and fringe groups around Yakima, and he was riling them up against minorities, against Muslims, Hispanics, against whatever is convenient. It's so crazy. And then we found out about it, at first we laughed, and then we were shocked, and then we said "Oh my gosh, this guy hasn't dropped it yet"

Zahid: Nine years later.

Ann: It was very difficult, very hard for us to leave, but we had to take our safety into consideration above that.

Zahid: For our own safety. Can you believe that? This is 2010. How will this go down in history? People are so afraid of the police they have to relocate. These are the terrible times we are going through. This year, 2010, will go down in history in America that it became acceptable and popular to carry out hate crimes against Muslims. It became acceptable to voice and act on anti-Muslim hate in our country. What began as hate in the blogosphere crashed into mainstream media and onto Main Street America. Whether it was protests and attacks in mosques, old political candidates using fear-mongering to score election victories, we have seen an uptick in hate and hate violence. I'm always optimistic it will get better. But in history, there is a lesson all humanity learned from the Inquisition, which is "Who's watching the guards?" And that question is important right now. Who's guarding the guards? People who have the discretion to change peoples' lives, their futures, I mean, who's watching them? Who's guarding them? What happened to the checks and balances?

Ann: And we have ..... We have sold a lot of stuff in order to pay them. We ..... beggared our bank accounts, and ..... It's one thing if you have, you know, if you have income coming in, when you're working. He's not able to work, and I had to quit my job to be able to take care of him. So I don't have anything coming in.

And it's even gotten to the point where somebody has told us "Well, ***you*** could get something if you weren't married to him, and you had to care for him."

..... That's terrible.

Zahid: Yeah, it's shocking.

Ann: It shows a bigger issue with our morality as a nation, that, okay, you need to take care of your husband? Well I'm sorry, you can get a divorce and then you can get paid for it.

Zahid: But, you live and hope.

What kind of legal representation do you have going forward into your upcoming hearing?

Zahid: We don't have any representation.

Ann: We do not.

Zahid: This is my legal representation [gesturing toward Ann].

Ann: We have tried following up on every lead that's given to us. There's people that are on a call-back list. So far, nobody's stepped up to the plate.

What's next for you two in your case?

Zahid: There are two separate tracks going on: citizenship and deportation. In District Court we have to appeal the Judge's decision and it's forwarded to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which comes under the umbrella of the U.S. Department of Justice and rules of evidence and all those other things apply, and they can do a new review, they don't have to take the other court's word for it.

The immigration court, it shouldn't be called a court, a real court, because the rules of evidence do not apply and it's run very differently. The judge himself works for INS. He has to keep his employers happy. So basically what they do is they try to get cases out quickly and rubber-stamp whatever the department is saying.

So that's where we're going January 12th, and hopefully we'll get justice there, if they can find themselves and their deep heart and can see through the muddy-ing of the matter. The government has spent millions of dollars to muddy up a very simple matter.

Ann: And this is why we were so excited to have the federal district court case that was supposed to be going on this week (Dec. 13-16) in Yakima, because we were finally going to be able to be more than just a name on a piece of paper. When you have a name on a piece of paper, and that name is "Muhammad", and that's linked by media or whoever as being something *bad*, then every time somebody sees that name, and they don't connect it with a face, then they are predisposed to have negative opinions about it. So we were very, very excited to be able to have our time in front of the judge, to be more than just a name on a piece of paper, and to present our witnesses, to present our story. And so it was an incredible devastation back in October to be told that the judge had agreed with the department's summary judgment motion.

This country was founded on immigrants. Basically, all of us came from immigrant backgrounds, except Native Americans. People who come to this country from other countries give to this country. And everybody else benefits from that as well.

Without a hearing.

Ann: Without a hearing.

What happens if your appeal succeeds?

Zahid: Then, the deportation court hearing, it just goes away. You just give them a copy of the decision from the higher court.

And it's done?

Zahid: Yeah, but it might take a year or two. But still, the judge in deportation court on January 12th can make a decision. They have an ICE office there and they have a detention facility right in the same building, on a different floor, so they can take you right there from the court, and that's what they do sometimes, in some cases. Or they give you 30 days to leave on your own, otherwise they come and get you at your home. So, that's nice of them, you know. They speak from a position of power, even when they're wrong, even when they can not see, they can't put two and two together.

I hate to even ask the corollary to if you succeed at this hearing, but if you fail at this hearing, do you have another appeal after that?

Zahid: No. This immigration court could do whatever they want.

Ann: The judge can make it right, but typically because he's working for... It's not separate from immigration. He works for the immigration department. So if immigration wants somebody out, what is that judge going to do?

Zahid: His employer. You know, insubordination. So that's where it is.

That's terrible.

Zahid: So that's what you can see, in my speech in Washington D.C., or the one in Seattle. We need a comprehensive immigration reform, because the system's set up in a way that it cannot respond to moral crises. It can not provide basic relief. So, that's why.

What kind of changes would you like to see in the immigration system in the United States?

Zahid: I won't go into specifics, but I think it has to be a system that is responsive to human needs and provide basic respect to all human beings, and it doesn't demonize us.

Any final thoughts you want to share with everyone?

Ann: People need to wake up. This country was founded on immigrants. Basically, all of us came from immigrant backgrounds, except Native Americans. And everybody's human, and we need to treat each other humanely, not as cattle, not as some sort of a possession. People think, if they're not affected directly by it, it has no effect on them whatsoever, and that's not true. People who come to this country from other countries give to this country. And everybody else benefits from that as well. The jobs that those immigrants do, you know, we hear people whining about, "Oh, they're taking our jobs." But in reality, the jobs that many immigrants do, especially in agricultural business, are jobs that nobody else would do. It would be too far beneath them. So people need to get off their high horse and realize that they are cutting themselves off at the knee when they treat immigrants bad, and treat them differently, not humanely.

Zahid: Ditto.

Thank you very much, both of you.

Ann: Thank you.

Zahid: Thank you.

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Thanks for reading!

▸ **INFORMATION,** continued from page 13

all has been spun into the message that he's a "fugitive" and a "wanted criminal." This narrative has been further fueled by the Swedish government's pursuit of Assange over a rape allegation – a case which was considered closed right up until Assange's political actions embarrassed government leaders, and they needed something to charge him with. (If all these government officials cared half as much about women's sovereignty as they opportunistically claim to, we might see some real change as opposed to this circus.) At the same time, while exerting pressure on companies to drop WikiLeaks aids the fight over logistics, it also feeds into this narrative; if all these companies say WikiLeaks is involved in "illegal activity," it *must* be true.

There should be no mistake that the mischaracterizations, the repeated references to "illegal activity," and the selective pursuit of rape charges by law enforcement are all part and parcel of the information war, every bit as much as political pressure and DDoS attacks. In many ways, COINTELPRO was a concentrated campaign to isolate political threats by delegitimizing them in the eyes of the very people who should be supporting them. Many of the same tactics still work today, 40 years later.

What wasn't around 40 years ago however, is the ubiquitous spin media establishment. Instead of putting these events into the rich historical context of whistleblowing and government secrecy, mainstream outlets severed Wikileaks from that history altogether by portraying the organization as a groundbreaking curiosity. Viewers were also riddled with such vague philosophical questions as "Does this really count as journalism?" That WikiLeaks cannot be significantly differentiated from other recognized journalistic outfits (outside of a stated focus) doesn't matter; just by asking the question repeatedly, the media calls WikiLeaks' creditability unduly into question.

Fearmongering

Perhaps the most reliable tool of power and hierarchy is good old fashioned fear. While the government cannot force the people to stop doing as they will, a culture of fear ensures the people will police themselves.

In an effort to suppress the leaks, the Library of Congress has banned access to WikiLeaks, and the Commerce Department has reminded its staff that, as government employees, accessing the files is unauthorized. Military personnel have been ordered not to visit the WikiLeaks website, and the Education Department instructed students hoping for a career in diplomacy not to read or discuss the WikiLeaks cables.

This position has puzzled even pundits on the side of government. As some have argued, the information is already out there; if "our enemies" can learn from it, why is the U.S. not allowing their own personnel to learn from it the same? The answer is twofold. First, the so-called "strategic value" of the documents is overblown; they don't reveal American vulnerabilities as much as they reveal the criminal acts of these employees' bosses, thus there's nothing the government would want their employees to "learn from." Second, it's part of a broader attempt at establishing the study, discussion, or dissemination of WikiLeaks as "thoughtcrime." Since many working people rely on the government for their living, that's a large swath of the population that can be forced to self-police, and that sentiment will permeate further.

As for the rest of us, government is looking to go after the source, as punishment, and to make an example. The CIA has formed the WikiLeaks Task Force (or "WTF"), and a secret grand jury has reportedly been convened to look into ways Assange can be convicted. Sen. Joe Lieberman and Rep. Peter King also introduced the SHIELD Act in Congress, which would modify the WWI-era Espionage Act to make it illegal for anyone to report "classified information related to certain intelligence activities of the United States." (The Act is currently in committee in both the House and Senate.) It remains to be seen if such codified thoughtcrime would survive in the courts on the basis of so-called "national security."

These are the traditional tools of people in power in their war on information: intimidate the source, divide them from their support base, sever them from their resources, and lastly, suppress the service they provide.

Meanwhile, on the electronic front, the government did to DDoS what it does to all effective and irrepressible tactics of democratic accountability – they made it arbitrarily illegal. In the United Kingdom, the Police and Justice Act of 2006 specifically outlawed DDoS, with violators potentially facing an excessive 10 years in prison for participating in a DDoS attack. The U.S. is likely to pass similar legislation in the near future.

The trump card

Usually, the combination of media spin, fearmongering, bullying and collusion is enough for those in power to get what they want. But never has an enemy of the state had a trump card quite like the one WikiLeaks has. The entirety of the diplomatic cables, as well as unspecified future releases, have all been compressed into one file, locked with a 256-key encryption to prevent access. When the pressure first ramped up against WikiLeaks, this file was distributed directly to supporters around the world, then to anyone in the file-sharing world through bittorrent, and later through the mass-mirror project. So it was declared, if anything malicious happened to the WikiLeaks organization or to Julian Assange, as a last resort the key to this file would be revealed, and the whole dump of diplomatic cables would be released to the world, unredacted – as a last resort.

It bears consideration just how the "insurance strategy" will change the face of information war going forward. Information clearinghouses now have the power to globally disseminate information in short order, perhaps even surreptitiously, and yet withhold its announcement until that dissemination is complete, thus eliminating the most vulnerable point in the process. And unlike past leaks, which relied on major news organizations to simultaneously print the news, and hence filter it (or withhold it altogether), that information can be supplied directly to the people. This is one example of new technologies (as well as new applications for old techniques) democratizing the flow of information, right before our eyes.

It's impossible to know how things would have played out differently if WikiLeaks had not had this ace in the hole. Would the enemies of Julian Assange have made good on their threats against him? Would governmental abuse of power have crushed WikiLeaks in its infancy? All that can be said for certain is, it would not be the first time U.S. law enforcement agents broke all their own rules to meet their objective, allowing the courts rebuke them years later, after the damage to free information had been done. Finally, however, we the people have a freedom-of-information tactic that even flippant dismissal of jurisprudence cannot address.

How the government responds in the future to this "insurance" tactic has yet to be seen, as pro-establishment think tanks are, no doubt, trying to think of ways to put genies back into bottles.

The delusions of the powerful

Recently, in Olympia, WA, the Army concluded their investigation into John Towery, an employee of military intelligence who for years had infiltrated anti-war groups under the name "John Jacob." However, the Army has decided to withhold the results of their investigation, for now. The reason given is because there's an ongoing lawsuit against the military for their illegal spying. Translated, this *literally* means, "We're not letting you have this information because it might make us – the military or individuals in it – look bad, and it might get us in trouble." Never mind that if this information helps the lawsuit succeed, then it *should* succeed. Never mind that many of us not affiliated with the lawsuit have a right to know. This, after the Army assured the public in this specific case that "our goal is transparency."

How the government responds in the future to this "insurance" tactic has yet to be seen, as pro-establishment think tanks are, no doubt, trying to think of ways to put genies back into bottles.

This is just one example of how unchecked entitlement has made those in power lose touch with reality. Over the last several years, with the government's monopoly on information becoming more and more absolute, abuses of power have become more extreme, while justifications have become more transparent. Some of the released cables, including the one that falsely claimed Cuba was suppressing Michael Moore's film *Sicko*, show how the State Department has even taken to fooling *itself* – a very dangerous thing to do. And yet, those in power always think they can get away with more.

Until now, losing touch with reality hasn't caused their power to ebb, because the old dirty tricks for suppressing dissent have worked just fine. Successful strategies of suppression and bullying are self-reinforcing. However, when such strategies fail, as we're now seeing, the consequences for the bully are disastrous.

Panicked politicians are now flailing for an answer to WikiLeaks. Joe Lieberman has suggested investigating the *New York Times* for violating the Espionage Act, a course of action which is both unflattering and, considering the *Times*' minimal involvement in reporting the leak, ineffectual. Some lawmakers have even expressed what amounts to a willingness to rip the Constitution to shreds, just to make this defacement go away. All the while, day after day, breaking news on further government attempts at suppression of free speech run concurrently with breaking news of yet another scandal being revealed.

Assessing the aftermath

In the end, government was responsible for its own undoing. Their repeated cover-ups of their own wrongdoings have convinced countless to side with the exposer rather than the exposed. Their obsession with keeping secrets, even unnecessary ones, resulted in the over-classification of documents, meaning more people had to be given higher clearances, increasing the chances that someone out there who doesn't see things in the same way is given the key to the candy store. And as we have seen, the government's attempts at suppressing the information – traditional and high-tech – have only made the situation worse for them.

WikiLeaks has become stronger than ever. The original wikileaks.org domain is back, and the money-transfer service XIPWIRE has since opened a donation account for WikiLeaks and waived the service fee, replacing the services cut off by PayPal and such. What once was one website has evolved into a phenomenon, inspiring a number of spinoff sites including OpenLeaks, TradeLeaks and EnviroLeaks. There can be no doubt that WikiLeaks won this battle. And while there's a push to criminalize the *concept* of WikiLeaks, there's enough support for WikiLeaks within the halls of government, legal protection for whistleblower journalism, and court precedent protecting the rights of journalists to keep that from happening. Eventually the push for criminalization will fade as unstoppable mega-leaks become more and more commonplace.

New events and new innovations will continue to shape the landscape of information war in ways we cannot foresee. The most likely result, for us, is that the pendulum of governmental power will begin to swing the other way. These latest revelations, as damning as they are, are just the tip of the iceberg. Much as it did in the wake of the Watergate cover-up, the COINTELPRO revelations, and the Pentagon Papers, so-called "liberal democracy" will have to make a number of concessions soon if it wants to maintain the myth that we live in freedom, that the government is answerable to the people, and that it has our best interests at heart.

Wally Cuddeford is an independent journalist, anti-war and social justice activist, and a US Navy veteran. He's a lifelong resident of Olympia, WA.

Works In Progress **is proud to announce our participation in the global fight for whistleblower journalism, and against Internet censorship. Early in December,** ***WIP*** **joined the WikiLeaks mass-mirror project.**

wikileaks.olywip.org

If you'd like to host your own mirror of wikileaks on your website, find out how at wikileaks.olywip.org/Mass-mirroring-Wikileaks.html

WIP History

Normal months, ***WIP*** **reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month however, space considerations have relegated our chosen reprint to the website only.**

In 2000, Amy Levinson was a popular local writer for the Internet newsletter Streetmail ... that is, until she ***endorsed Ralph Nader!*** **(Apparently, writing about "gay themes" didn't help her either.)**

For the whole scoop on this early example of Internet censorship, read "Dot commie versus Dot Com and Dot God," by Amy Levinson, from the January 2001 WIP. Available at www.olywip.org

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to submissions@olywip.org or Works In Progress PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
1st Monday of the Month 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Our time is limited so we're looking for something in the ballpark of three poems of moderate length or one long poem and one short from each reader.

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place (Next to Schmidt Mansion)

Local chapter of the loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics in a friendly environment.

Tuesday Read-Ins
Tuesdays, 5-7pm
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia

Come on in, sit, read and drink free tea!

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies for Other Countries
Providence Health International / CHUMA, 2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be aged 14 or above. CHUMA International (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring that useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

CHUMA has sent medical supplies to are Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda, and other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts locally Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

Fellowship Of Reconciliation TV Programs
Mondays at 1:30 pm, Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 (Thurston County's cable TV)

January program: **"Create a Publicly Owned Washington State Bank"**

North Dakota has successfully operated a publicly owned state bank for about 90 years – and North Dakota is the only state that is not facing a financial crisis now. North Dakota has our nation's only publicly owned state bank. During the Great Depression North Dakota's state bank refused to evict farmers from any foreclosed farms.

Our state legislature could create a state bank and require all tax revenue to be deposited there. The money could be loaned to small local banks here or to Washingtonians or for purposes.

Our very knowledgeable TV guests are Dan Leahy, Cindy Cole and John Repp.

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch more than 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

Beginning with a small but enthusiastic group of adults, the Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum has been meeting regularly for nearly two years. The group explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Lead by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil in NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12-1 pm: Legion & Capitol Way

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia
360-352-0593

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that cannot be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc.

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonwallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Veterans for Peace airs a locally produced program
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9 - 10 pm
Thurston County TV (TCTV)

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Features interesting, informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. Info: parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

"Women in Black" Silent Vigil for Peace
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
South side of W. 4th Ave. near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Since 1988 "Women in Black" has been a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to war and violence. Info: Karin Kraft 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia
754-4085

We're building a food garden! By summertime next year, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you like to play in the soil, if you have a pickup truck, if you have yard tools to loan, if you are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please come join us! If you have other skills, there are a lot of ways to get involved. Help us paint the shelter, make repairs, can our home-grown food, prepare the Saturday Supper, or build new furniture for the shelter. Followed by Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal every Saturday evening. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Info: Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

Oly Songwriter Circle
January 4th – Tuesday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Also, join Facebook to start connecting with the Olympia Songwriters Circle. www.facebook.com/.../Olympia-Songwriters-Circle

Report Back from India by Bernie Meyer
January 5 - Wednesday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

What is the REALITY of India? What is happening between India and the US? What messages are being issued? "My experiences are incredibly rich. I continually process the reality of our world!" Bernie has just returned from his third 2010 trip to India where he portrayed Gandhi in several locations, 10th trip since 2005. "I bring Gandhi to the world of 2010." From the International Youth Peace Festival to the village schools, from activist Round Tables to NGO conversations, to numerous conferences, comes the world to India.

Nurses Beyond Borders
January 6 – Thursday, 6:30pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Sharing of experiences of nurses working in crisis situations.

Elvis' 76th Birthday
January 7, Friday, 7:30pm
Capitol Theater (206 5th Avenue, Olympia)
360-754-6670

Robert Washington will appear live in concert at the 11th Annual Elvis Birthday Bash in Olympia. The evening begins with a screening of Almost Elvis – the funny and heartwarming documentary about Elvis Impersonators. This award-winning film chronicles top contenders on their road to the World Championships, including Robert's own efforts to crack the color barrier. After the film, Washington will take the stage and let the audience be the judge. Known in the Elvis world for his onstage flips, athletic dance moves, and powerful voice, he leaves fans *all shook up*.

Holly Gwinn Graham "Instant Plays"
January 8, Saturday, 1-2pm
Olympia Timberland Library
313 8th Avenue SE
Meeting Room

Kids create characters that come to life onstage in colorful costume array. Improvised storytelling and music at its best, with themes of non-violence, caring, communication and just plain good-hearted fun. Great camera opportunities! Ages 5 and up. Free!

Music by Gusto Detres / Reuel Lubag
January 8 -Saturday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Bassist/guitarist Steve Luceno brings us an evening of jazz featuring two groups, "Gusto Detres," with Lorree Gardener on bass, Craig Cootsona on drums and Steve on guitar; and a second group featuring Seattle pianist Reuel Lubag, Steve on bass and Craig on drums. There will be a fine variety of sounds in this lively evening of jazz.

Music by the Straw Hat String Band
January 9 - Sunday, 2-4pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Free acoustic music in the cafe. The Straw Hat String Band is a fervent acoustic traditional band that does interpretations of many folk genres - Contradance, Irish, Old Timey, Québécois, Métis, American Roots, Blues, Rock, Jazz, and Latin.

Open Shape Note singing
January 9 – Sunday 5pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Open to all who would like to sing in the shape note traditions.

Bridges Not Walls - Olympia meeting
January 9, Sunday, 4pm
MIXX 96 building (State and Washington)

Bridges Not Walls is a coalition of community members from the South Sound region of WA State who have united to address issues of immigration in our community. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people. We meet twice each month, alternating between Shelton and Olympia. 943-8642 for more information.

Now is the Time to Comment – Shoreline Master Program
January 10 - Monday, 6:30pm
900 Plum Street Southeast, Olympia

The public hearing will be reopened and will be conducted in the Council Chamber. The comment period for the draft Shoreline Master Program has been extended to midnight on Monday, January 10, 2011. Submit comments to shorelineupdate@ci.olympia.wa.us, by mail, or in person at 837 7th Avenue SE, Olympia, between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.

National Organization of Women Meeting
January 11 - Tuesday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

The National Organization for Women is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States. Since founding in 1966, NOW's goal is "to take action" to bring about equality for all women.

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
January 11 – Tuesday, 7pm
2nd Tuesday of each month
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

This community group formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. For more info. go to www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

Death Penalty:New Study Group
January 11 - February 15, Tuesday evenings
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Olympia Unitarian-Universalist Congregation (2300 East End Street NW)

Troubled by the death penalty? Learn about it and discuss various aspects in the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's six-part study group. The Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty developed the study group curriculum. Alice Curtis and Glen Anderson will facilitate. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Earth Care
January 12 - Wednesday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Video and discussion

Music by Red Molly
January 13 – Thursday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

This group started singing around a campfire at the 2004 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival and evolved into Red Molly, one of the fastest-rising folk/bluegrass bands in the acoustic music scene. A favorite at festivals, theatres and clubs, Red Molly continues to win fans across the country with their contagious stage presence and crisp musicianship.

Music by Heartsparkle Players
January 14 – Friday, 7:30pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Audience Up! We invite you up on stage with us. This special evening will be a part of Arts Crush a month-long festival sponsored by Theatre Puget Sound.

Music by Holly Gwinn Graham
January 15 – Saturday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

"Songs of the Heart" is the focus of Holly's concert. Holly always brings her great wit, her community activism, her fine singing of originals and jazz and folk standards. She will be joined by a number of outstanding local musicians.

A Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Jam
January 16, Sunday, 2:30pm
3rd Sunday each month.
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

This is a monthly jam of bluegrass and acoustic musicians

Silent peace walk around Capitol Lake
January 16, Sunday, 12-1pm
Marathon Park
Capitol Lake's west side.

Please do not bring signs or talk. This silent

meditative walk is done in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. The 2010 walk included nearly 180 participants. Sponsor: South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship 357-2825 ssbpf@comcast.net www.ssbpf.org

Uke and Singalong
January 17 – Monday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Veteran folk musicians and uke enthusiasts and teachers Steve Einhorn and Kate Power bring a community event to Traditions

Creating a Just, Sustainable & Resilient Local Food System -- T J Johnson
January 17, Monday, 7-9pm
Olympia Unitarian Universalist Church,
2200 East End St NW

Where our food comes from, how it's produced, and how it gets to our table has tremendous implications for our ability to create a secure and sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.

TJ Johnson will present information about the current food system, identify opportunities for re-localizing food production, and offer ideas for moving forward. Following the presentation there will be an open discussion and a chance for everyone in attendance to begin envisioning solutions.

Olympia Climate Action & Transition Olympia
January 18 – Tuesday, 7-9pm
3rd Tuesday of each Month
MIXX 96 Meeting Room
State & Washington, Olympia

Transition Olympia (TO) and Olympia Climate Action have joined forces. With similar missions and some duplication of one another's efforts, the steering committees decided we could have more impact in our community and better use our limited resources if we merged. Thus in the future you'll be hearing from us as the Transition Olympia Climate Action (TOCA).

Poetry night
January 19 – Wednesday, 6:30pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Featured poet and open mic. Sponsored by the Olympia Poetry Network.

Plants and Planets: Aligning with Celestial Influences
January 20 -Thursday, 6:30pm
3rd Thursday of the Month
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

A look at the month ahead and the celestial energies in store for us. We'll discuss how to support ourselves through the planetary transits with herbal medicines, gemstones, flower essences, and other gifts of the Earth. Come join this lively community happening, exploring how the big picture relates to our town and our lives.

Music by Bill Evans
January 21 – Friday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Bill Evans is well-known within the bluegrass music community not only as a musician, but also as a teacher, writer and scholar. The Banjo in America concert traces the banjo from its West African roots to the New World as he performs musical examples from the 1700's to the present day on a variety of vintage instruments, explaining how the banjo has been at the intersection of African- and Anglo-American musical and cultural exchange for over 250 years. Show also includes special guest Corey Evans.

Bring the Billion$ Home
Cut military spending. Meet human needs.
January 22, Saturday, 10 am to 12:30 pm
Olympia Timberland Library, 8th & Franklin

Help organize Olympia's participation in the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation's campaign to "Bring the Billion$ Home." 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Winter Garage Sale
Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Assoc
January 22 – 9 am to 3 pm, Saturday
Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria
213 21st Ave SE, Olympia

Proceeds from the event support a modest public library and children's free lunch program and college scholarships in our sister town in Nicaragua.

Please support these critical projects by donating: collectibles, books, music, cameras, jewelry, tools, clean clothes and linens, toys, framed art, lamps, furniture (no couches) electronics (but no computers, monitors or TVs), small working appliances, gizmos and other kitchen items. Your tax-deductible donations must be dropped off at the school cafeteria between 4-7 p.m. on Friday January 21st. Plan to come back to the sale the next morning to buy cool stuff at great prices! For more information on donations or to volunteer, call (360) 943-5432 or email susan@kavanaugh.com

Ethnic Celebration
January 22, Saturday, 10am-7pm
St. Martin's University
Marcus Pavilion & Worthington Conference Center

A free event for the whole family! Enjoy music and dance from around the world on three performance stages. Experience traditions from other lands through demonstrations and displays. Sample exotic flavors and artwork from our food and craft vendors. Hands-on craft activities for the kids, too!

Presented by the City of Lacey and North Thurston Public Schools, with sponsor support from the Washington State Arts Commission, Olympia Federal Savings, OBEE Credit Union, Capital Collision and 94.5 ROXY. For Information: Lacey Parks and Recreation, (360) 491-0857

Sunday, January 23
Out of the Woods Benefit

More details on this benefit soon. Out of the Woods provides emergency food and shelter for homeless families in Thurston County and guides them toward self-sufficiency with dignity.

Bridges Not Walls - Shelton meeting
January 23, Sunday, at 4pm
Mason County Literacy office

See description under Bridges Not Walls January 9 Olympia meeting.

The carpool from Olympia will leave from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol) at 3:15pm. 943-8642 for more information.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
January 26 – Wednesday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

A sharing of experiences of returned Peace Corps volunteers.

Join the Olympia community delegation and travel to Nicaragua in July, 2011
January 27 – Thursday, 7 pm
203 20th Ave SE, Olympia
(SE corner of 20th and Washington)

Come to an informal presentation and consider visiting our sister town of Santo Tomás for one to four weeks this summer. We will learn about historical and current reality in Nicaragua, live with host families and reconnect with Nicaragua friends we've met on delegations to Olympia over the last 20 years. Depending on the needs of the community that our sister organization identifies, and our own interests, we may volunteer in classrooms, construction projects, health clinic work, web-page development, cultural workshops, etc. Spanish classes are available as well.

Grace Cox and Jean Eberhardt will lead this delegation. Email tstsca@gmail.com or call (360) 943-8642 for more information.

Cultural & Healing Traditions of the Peruvian Aymara
January 28 – Friday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Traditional Aymara healer Silvia Chuquimia, from Peru, will share the philosophy, teachings, and traditions of the Aymara, as well as the history and ancient art of reading coca leaves. Descended from the pre-Inca people who inhabit the southern Lake Titicaca region, Silvia will explain why the coca is considered a sacred plant for the inhabitants of the Andes. This evening will include a visual presentation of Silvia's hometown and a chance for Q&A with this unique healer. Website: www.museodelacoca.com

Music by Scott Cossu with Jessica Blinn
January 29 Saturday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Musician, composer and recording artist Scott Cossu, one of our local northwest luminaries, returns to our stage for a concert of original compositions on piano. A graduate of the San Francisco Music Conservatory, Jessica loves to perform many genres of music including Classical, Jazz and Celtic.

▸ **ANARCHISM,** continued from page 7

intellectual and emotional effort into completing the twelve steps in a standardized fashion, as outlined in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Members are free to ask someone to sponsor them; sponsors are free to decide whether or not they will. A good sponsor may be totally different than a sponsee, whether in values, religion, culture or race. The most effective sponsors have a positive solution-based message. Sponsors who are able to model the message of AA and articulately pass it on to another—achieving success staying sober whilst they help others stay sober. A sponsee is free to fire the sponsor at any time, or vice versa. There exists no right way or wrong way to do so. Free association, unity of purpose, and the prime emphasis on mutual aid are all part of the total package of AA.

Demographics

AA had over 100,000 groups worldwide in 2001. Globally there are more than two million members. Ethnic minorities are under-represented in AA. According to AA's own literature, 85.1% of the members are Caucasian. Outreach has focused on diverse populations, with AA literature developed for African-Americans, women, gays, Latinos, youths and Native Americans.

As of 2007, estimated AA membership and active groups includes:

- Groups in U.S.: 55,244
  Members in U.S: 1,248,394
- Groups in Canada: 4,849
  Members in Canada: 93,986
- Groups Overseas: 55,092
  Members Overseas: 702,510
- Groups in Correctional Facilities (U.S./Canada): 1,585
  Members in Correctional Facilities: 39,964
- Lone Members: 235
- Total Groups: 116,773
  Total Members: 2,085,125

Efficacy Studies

Project MATCH, an 8-year, multi-site, $27-million investigation correlated positive results experienced by participants involved in AA compared to other treatment modalities. Said NIAAA Director Enoch Gordis, M.D, "These findings are good news for treatment providers and for patients who can have confidence that any one of these treatments, if well-delivered, represents the state of the art in behavioral treatments."

In a 1983 study which compiled forty years of clinical studies and an eight-year longitudinal study, Dr. George Vaillant—an AA Board member, concluded that "Alcoholics Anonymous appears equal to or superior to conventional treatments for alcoholism, and the skepticism of some professionals regarding AA as a first rank treatment for alcoholism would appear to be unwarranted."

A sixteen year study by Moos and Moos comparing standard clinical treatment to continuous involvement in AA found that "after the first year, continued clinical treatment had little effect on the 16-year outcomes, whereas continued involvement in AA did help."

In a study of 1,774 low-income veterans, researchers concluded that 12-step programs were found to be effective in terms of cost and recovery.

1. A study by J. Tonigan found that "the largest benefit associated with AA attendance was increased abstinence, followed by reductions in alcohol-related consequences."
2. A survey of approximately 7,000 members of Alcoholics Anonymous carried out in 1998 "indicates that no less than 47% had been sober for a minimum of 5 years."

Summary

When viewed through an anarchist lens, the concept of any *one* individual having more of something, while another has less is unnecessary and creates suffering. This suffering is alleviated and avoided by assuring equally shared access to resources by all—at all levels through voluntarily cooperation.

Bill Wilson thought that Alcoholics Anonymous would "always be threatened from within and without" if the community did not have a common purpose—open to anyone and everyone who walked in the door. *Earning a chair* in AA, or a place in the community, does not have any correlation with one's race, status, class, gender or other dividing factor. The only requirement for membership, for community and for a *chair* in AA is a desire to stop drinking (Tradition Three). You are an AA member if you say you are.

AA's message is based on the connectedness of each member to themselves and each other—incorporated in a free and open exchange at all levels with what Bill saw as a "*complete freedom from punishment or penalty.*" This is the overtly expressed unity of purpose that guides members and groups to help all who seek relief from the disease of alcoholism, and its impact upon lives.

The strong emphasis in the literature on the sharing of tangible and intangible resources can be seen at all levels. Resource sharing occurs through consensual decision-making processes by volunteers to address international, national, regional and home group activities and the more intangible resources available through fellowship, sponsorship and meetings.

Opinions in AA, via the sharing of experience, strength and hope are all equal in value, none better and none worse—simply *different*. Permission to be different, to make mistakes, to not be someone else's ideal of "perfection" based on external societal influences and dominant power paradigms are clearly expressed in the literature read at every meeting.

Members carry into AA their history, culture and preconceived notions of their place in society. The transformative nature of the Alcoholics Anonymous community, moving members from suffering to joy, is created and held together in a cross-cultural tapestry woven by the commonalities among members, not their differences; proven strong enough for the long-haul.

Heavily influenced by Peter Kropotkin, the founder of classical anarchism, and possibly influenced by current events of the era such as the Spanish Civil War, (where anarchist philosophy was put into direct political action) the co-founders and early members of AA succeeded in creating an ongoing community and culture which has statistically significant efficacy rates on long-term sobriety among diverse populations of alcoholics.

Northwest Detention Center Vigil in Tacoma
Saturday, January 8th at 11 am

Carpool from Olympia to leave at 11 am sharp from Capitol and State in downtown Olympia, from the parking lot under the Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by Geo Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000.00 of taxpayers' taxes each night that the NWDC is full. Prisons and detention centers are a growth industry in the US! Come bring coffee and food to support families who are visiting their locked-up loved ones, and protest a failed immigration policy at the same time.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net for more information.

SPECIAL OLYMPIA EDITION JANUARY 2011

TIME

PERSON OF THE YEAR

Julian Assange

The People's Choice

January 2011 FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

LOCAL VETERAN FACES DEPORTATION

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